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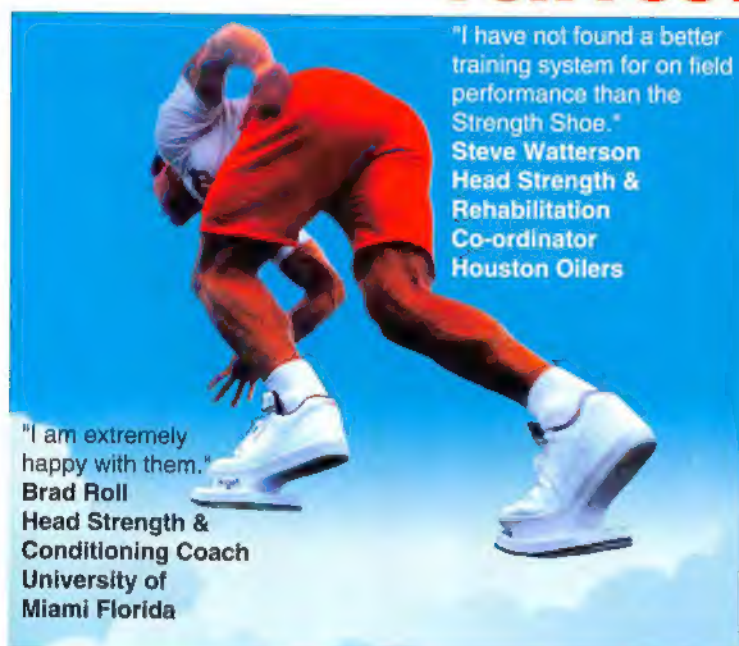
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published by the Condé Nast Publications Inc.
five times each year: Baseball in March, Pro Football
in June, College Football in July, Pro Basketball in
September, College Basketball in October.

Editorial offices for Street & Smith's Sports Group:
304 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017.

Executive and publishing offices: 350 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017. S.J. Newhouse Jr., Chairman;

Bernard H. Laser, President; Pamela M. van Zandt,

Executive Vice President, Secretary; Eric C. Anderson

Executive Vice President, Treasurer. Single copies:

in U.S. and possessions, \$4.50, in Canada, \$4.95.

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National Sports Network, Inc./Sports Marketing Consultants

PRINTED IN THE USA.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation 

Letter From the Editor

● The National Football League opened its coffers to free agents in 1993, so it was only fitting that a guy named Booty (John) was one of the first in line. An unrestricted free-agent defensive back, he quickly grabbed \$3.3 million from the Phoenix Cardinals. Reggie White, Booty's former roommate and teammate on the Philadelphia Eagles, was the biggest winner in the free-agent jackpot. After listening to offers from a number of teams, White signed with the Green Bay Packers for \$17 million, \$9 million of which he will receive this season, assuring him the "peace of mind" he was seeking.

There were other free-agent success stories. The Indianapolis Colts strengthened their offensive line by adding Will Wolford and Kirk Lowdermilk for a combined \$13.65 million. Wide receiver Gary Clark jumped from the Washington Redskins to the Cardinals for \$6 million. Linebacker Kevin Greene moved from the Los Angeles Rams to the Pittsburgh Steelers for \$5.3 million. Cody Carlson benefited from the new system even before it became official. The backup quarterback re-signed for \$8.85 million with the Houston Oilers, who were unwilling to risk losing him to another team. But timing was everything, even for reserve players such as guard Brian Habib (\$4.2 million), linebackers Carlton Bailey (\$5.25 million) and Hardy Nickerson (\$5.1 million), and cornerback Melvin Jenkins (\$1.3 million), all of whom reaped the rewards of a system that is bound to change when a salary cap takes effect in 1994.

The best-selling success story on the field last season was written by the Dallas Cowboys. Drafting wisely, they rebounded from a 1-15 finish in 1989 and rode three straight No. 1 picks all the way to the league championship. The NFC has won the last nine Super Bowls, with the Cowboys, the third NFC East team in as many years, handing the Buffalo Bills a third straight loss in January.

The Kansas City Chiefs, looking to halt the NFC domination, traded for Joe Montana, perhaps the NFL's greatest quarterback. They are hoping for immediate gratification from Montana, 37, the three-time Super Bowl MVP who has played little due to injuries in the past two years. The Los Angeles Raiders used free agency to acquire a new quarterback, Jeff Hostetler, who led the New York Giants to their second Super Bowl victory in 1991. John Elway, like Buffalo's Jim Kelly, has been on the losing end of three Super Bowls, yet the Denver Broncos, having installed a Montana-style offense under new coach Wade Phillips, remain challengers to the Bills for the AFC title. Ditto for the Miami Dolphins and Dan Marino, a member with Kelly and Elway of the quarterback class of '83 (a combined 0-8 in the Super Bowl).

The careers of NFL quarterbacks are lasting longer than they once did, partly because there are so few exceptional young replacements. With the defection of Hostetler, Phil Simms, 38 in November, was reinstalled as the Giants' starter by new coach Dan Reeves. The New York Jets traded Ken O'Brien to Green Bay, obtained 32-year-old Boomer Esiason from Cincinnati, and benched Browning Nagle. Jim McMahon, 33, was signed by the Minnesota Vikings, his fourth team in the last six years, and immediately named the starter. The lucrative contracts available through free agency are incentive enough for the veterans to stay in the game.

Gerard Kavanagh

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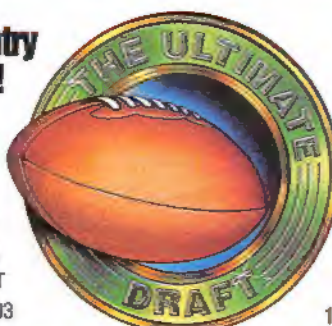
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2. A player dropped from your team can only be replaced with another player from the same Group (01 to 10 - See below).
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4. Payment for all league members must be paid by one entrant.

Select ONE (1) player from each group below.

NOTE: Points (PTS) are based on 1992 final stats using the Ultimate Draft scoring system. Due to publishing deadlines, team designations may not reflect recent changes.

QB (01)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	QB (02)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (03)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (04)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (05)	TEAM	GP	PTS.
1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Aikman	Dal	16	292	1 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Elway	Den	12	171	1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Allen	Min	16	258	1 <input type="checkbox"/> N. Anderson	Chi	16	164	1 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Butts	SD	15	112
2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cunningham	Phi	15	310	2 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Everett	Ram	16	278	2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Foster	Pit	16	269	2 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Byner	Was	16	183	2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Harmon	SD	16	139
3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Kelly	Bul	16	288	3 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Favre	GB	15	263	3 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Hampton	NYG	16	220	3 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cobb	TB	16	187	3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Higgs	Mia	16	148
4 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Marino	Mia	16	315	4 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Harbaugh	Chi	13	211	4 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Sanders	Det	16	218	4 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Gary	Ram	16	202	4 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Hilliard	NO	16	133
5 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Miller	Atl	8	168	5 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Humphries	SD	16	262	5 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Smith	Dal	16	319	5 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Green	Cin	16	150	5 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Johnson	Ind	15	129
6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Montana	KC	1	20	6 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Kosar	Cle	7	96	6 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Thomas	Bul	16	283	6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Johnson	NYJ	11	120	6 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Metcalf	Cle	16	134
7 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Moon	Hou	11	230	7 <input type="checkbox"/> N. O'Donnell	Pit	12	176	7 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Walters	SF	14	208	7 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Walker	Phi	16	195	7 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Sherman	Phi	12	116
8 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Young	SF	16	366	8 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Rypien	Was	16	226	8 <input type="checkbox"/> L. White	Hou	16	235	8 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Warren	Sea	16	133	8 <input type="checkbox"/> V. Workman	GB	10	104
REC (06)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (07)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (08)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (09)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	KICKER (10)	TEAM	GP	PTS.
1 <input type="checkbox"/> F. Barnett	Phi	16	144	1 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Carter	Min	12	106	1 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Anderson	Ram	15	108	1 <input type="checkbox"/> J.J. Birden	KC	15	82	1 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Andersen	NO	16	120
2 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Haynes	Atl	14	141	2 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Clark	Phi	16	123	2 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Brown	Rai	15	111	2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Blades	Sea	5	32	2 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Anderson	Pit	16	113
3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Irvin	Dal	16	182	3 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Duper	Mia	15	118	3 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Ellard	Ram	14	91	3 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Duncan	Hou	16	101	3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Carney	SD	15	113
4 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Jeffries	Hou	16	145	4 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Givins	Hou	16	146	4 <input type="checkbox"/> I. Fryar	Mia	15	104	4 <input type="checkbox"/> K. Jackson	Mia	12	89	4 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Christie	Bul	16	115
5 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Miller	SD	16	154	5 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Martin	NO	16	134	5 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Green	Det	10	89	5 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Monk	Was	16	87	5 <input type="checkbox"/> L. Elliott	Dal	16	119
6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Rice	SF	16	192	6 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Moore	Det	12	121	6 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson	Den	16	123	6 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore	NYJ	15	99	6 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Lohmiller	Was	16	120
7 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Rison	Atl	15	178	7 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Reed	Bul	16	116	7 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Jackson	Cle	14	120	7 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Novacek	Dal	16	99	7 <input type="checkbox"/> N. Lowery	KC	15	105
8 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Sharpe	GB	16	225	8 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Taylor	SF	8	62	8 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Pritchard	Atl	16	116	8 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Waddle	Chi	11	91	8 <input type="checkbox"/> P. Stoyanovich	Mia	16	124

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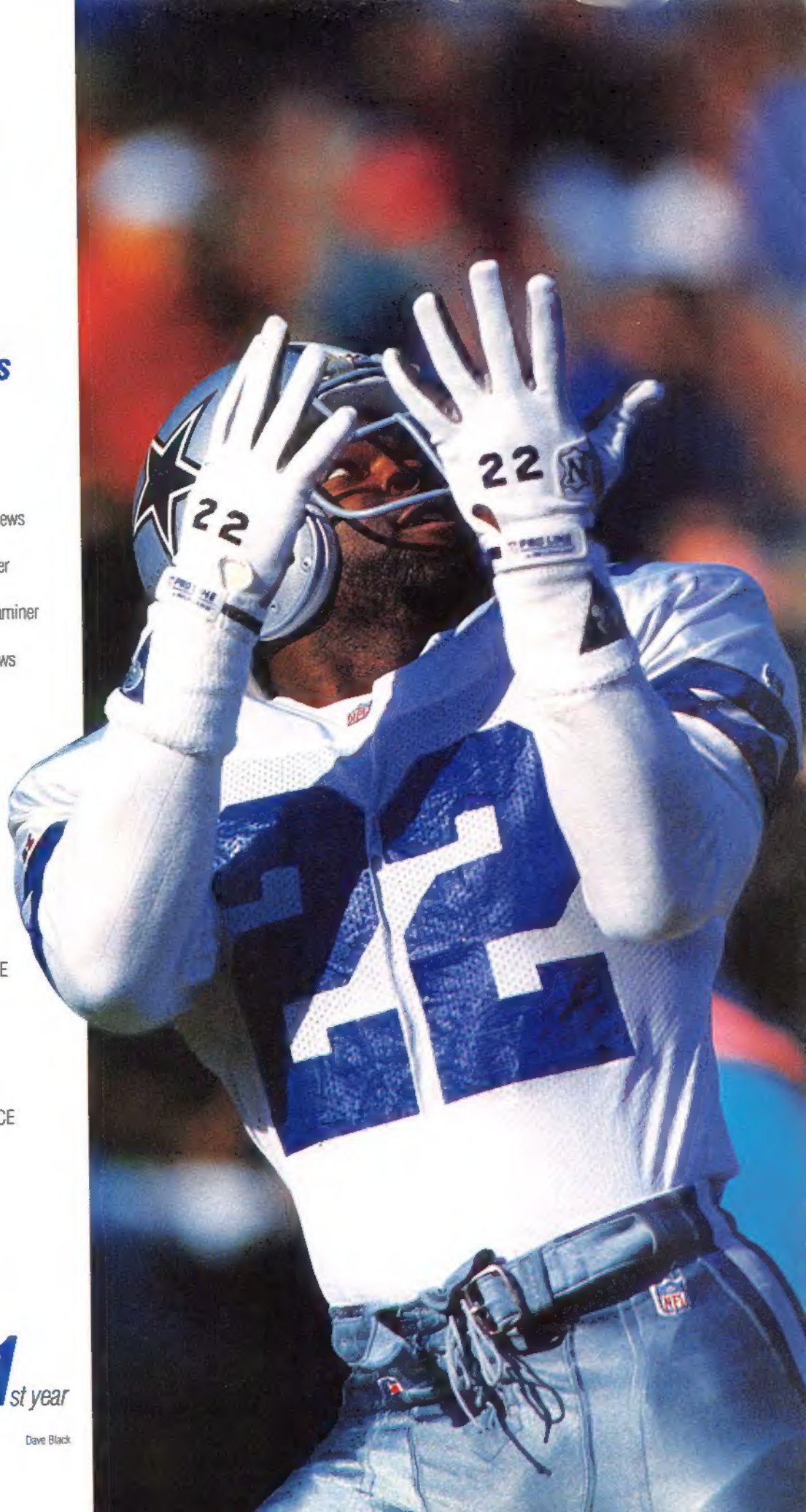
Pro Football

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June 1993 **31**st year

Dave Black



The \$tate of the Game

NFL players got their first taste of free agency, which made millionaires of untested backups.

by DON PIERSON

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

● The numbers are numbing. Freedom came to the National Football League in 1993 and the cost was far from free. For the first time in America's most popular sport, the players got a taste of the free agency enjoyed for years by franchises, owners, general managers, and coaches. Because a salary cap does not take effect until 1994, the inflated contracts of 1993 may well be a one-time bonanza. Nevertheless, the free agents of 1993 ran the greatest Statue of Liberty play in football history.

In a league that lost Joe Gibbs and Mike Ditka as coaches and regained Bill Parcells, the Reggie White Freeway Tour was the biggest story of the offseason, finally and surprisingly ending in the smallest city, Green Bay.

The Dallas Cowboys reinvented themselves in their own 1970s image. If they didn't become America's Team again with a resounding Super Bowl victory, they were at least Arkansas's Team, with Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson sharing Bill Clinton's unlikely ascension to power and popularity. Unknown, unwanted, and unsuccessful only a few years ago, all three men were inspiring the notion of "dynasty" as 1993 dawned.

But no plans or promises for economic revival could match the pot of gold found at the start of the free agent rainbow by a few lucky men. The week before the new less restricted system officially descended upon the league last March, the Houston Oilers signed their backup quarterback, Cody Carlson, to a stunning three-year contract paying \$8.85 million. It was only the first domino in a game of free-for-all that knocked fiscally conservative NFL managers flat on their wallets. Before Carlson could get to the bank, his contract looked like a good deal for the Oilers, who were only protecting themselves by preventing a good prospect from testing the open market.

Quickly, it became a market that made untested backups millionaires and proven starters jealous. Woe to anybody who had signed a contract a year ago, preferring not to trust the amazing possibilities of freedom in a sport brand new to the concept. Carlson had started only 12 games in six years before hitting the jackpot. The Oilers simply didn't want to take the chance of allowing him to peddle his services elsewhere and then be left to scramble for another successor to Warren Moon.

After all, this was a market in which Jim Harbaugh was suddenly making more than twice as much money (\$3.25 million a year) as Troy Aikman (\$1.4 million). The surprising thing about the price escalation was not the dollars, but the sense. While it's one thing to justify spending millions for star talent such as White, it is altogether new territory to see reserve players leap-frogging near the top of salary lists.

Brian Habib became the first example of all-out lunacy when the Denver Broncos signed the Minnesota Vikings' guard for \$4.2 million over three years. Habib had started 24 games over four years for the Vikings and didn't start at all until 1991. The Vikings considered him their fifth-best offensive lineman.

Carlton Bailey was a backup linebacker with the Buffalo Bills who failed to get into the Super Bowl but for even one play from scrimmage. Yet the New York Giants paid him \$5.25 million over three years, including a \$1.2 million signing bonus, to move downstate, a marvelous cost-of-living increase from the \$275,000 Bailey made last season.

What is going on?

"I told Carlton I am so proud of him," said Buffalo's new general manager, John Butler, with more envy than frustration in mind.

"One of the total obsolete sentences is, 'He's not worth it,'" said Giants general manager George Young. "I don't want to ever hear it again. We're into a new thing."

What matters is not what a player is worth, but what he costs. Family sedans aren't worth \$25,000 either. Another 3-4 inside linebacker who signed the same day as Bailey was Hardy Nickerson, who got \$5.1 million over three years to hop from Pittsburgh to Tampa Bay. Young said it was more than coincidence that Bailey and Nickerson commanded almost identical contracts.

Melvin Jenkins may be the most amazing story of all. A journeyman cornerback who couldn't start in Seattle, Jenkins was claimed on the Plan B list by Detroit two years ago. He started for the Lions and played well. But on the free agent market, the Atlanta Falcons made him an all-pro. His contract will pay him more in 1993 (\$1.3 million) than the combined contracts of the two Seattle cornerbacks, Dwayne Harper and Patrick Hunter, who beat him out two years ago. Although Jenkins has improved, word out of Seattle is he still

couldn't supplant either Harper or Hunter. Instead, he should send them thank-you notes.

Because there is no salary cap in 1993 under the new system, some teams obviously were trying to make hay while the cap was away. But what happens in 1994? Assuming teams spend 67 percent of league-wide designated revenue on player costs, the cap is inevitable. Again, New York's Young had the answer: "We are going to pay the piper and the piper's name is Mr. Cap." How football teams juggle rosters and contracts to stay under the cap will be a spectator sport worth the price of admission all by itself. "This is not basketball we're talking about," said New Orleans president Jim Finks. "We're talking about rosters of 53, not 12."

To guard against cap violations, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue has the authority to fine teams up to \$2 million. The league will have full-time policemen watching for overly creative accounting practices. For example, could the 49ers hire Mrs. Reggie White as a community affairs consultant for \$500,000 a year? "If they want to pay a \$2 million fine, yeah," Tagliabue said.

The 49ers, restricted in their pursuit of free agents because they were a final-four team, tried to sign White as a replacement for Atlanta-bound star Pierce Holt. But they were unable to outbid the Packers, whose price of \$17 million over four years beat San Francisco's \$19.5 over five. Neither deal was guaranteed, but Green Bay front-loaded the contract to the tune of \$9 million the first season, allowing White the "peace of mind" he sought.

Green Bay's victory continued to disprove one of management's favorite myths about the dangers of free agency. For years, owners wrung their hands over the fate of the small towns getting squeezed out of big-time sports for lack of money or appeal to today's celebrity-athletes. But the Packers, the only publicly-held team with no owners to satisfy monetarily, led the league in Plan B signings when that system was in effect and again took an aggressive stance in the free-agent market.

Landing the biggest name of all stamped the Packers as major players in a new era.



ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE HAEFLE

Only two days before getting White, they had traded for quarterback Ken O'Brien of the New York Jets. Ironically, O'Brien's availability may have been courtesy of White. While traversing the country during a 37-day search for a new team, White told the Jets he would be more impressed with their possibilities for the '93 season if they would complete a trade for Cincinnati quarterback Boomer Esiason. No sooner said than done, Esiason's arrival in New York made O'Brien expendable.

White also had been wooed by the Cleveland Browns, Atlanta Falcons, New York Giants, Detroit Lions, and Washington Redskins. The Browns picked him up in a private jet and showered his wife with gifts. The Falcons brought out the governor.

"We didn't do anything fancy. No clowns and no balloons," said Packers president Bob Harlan. "It was strictly, 'These are our facilities, this is our football team, and this is what we're trying to accomplish.'"

White's decision came down to the Packers, 49ers, and Redskins—one team per each NFC division. Unfortunately for the balance of power, White is an NFC guy.

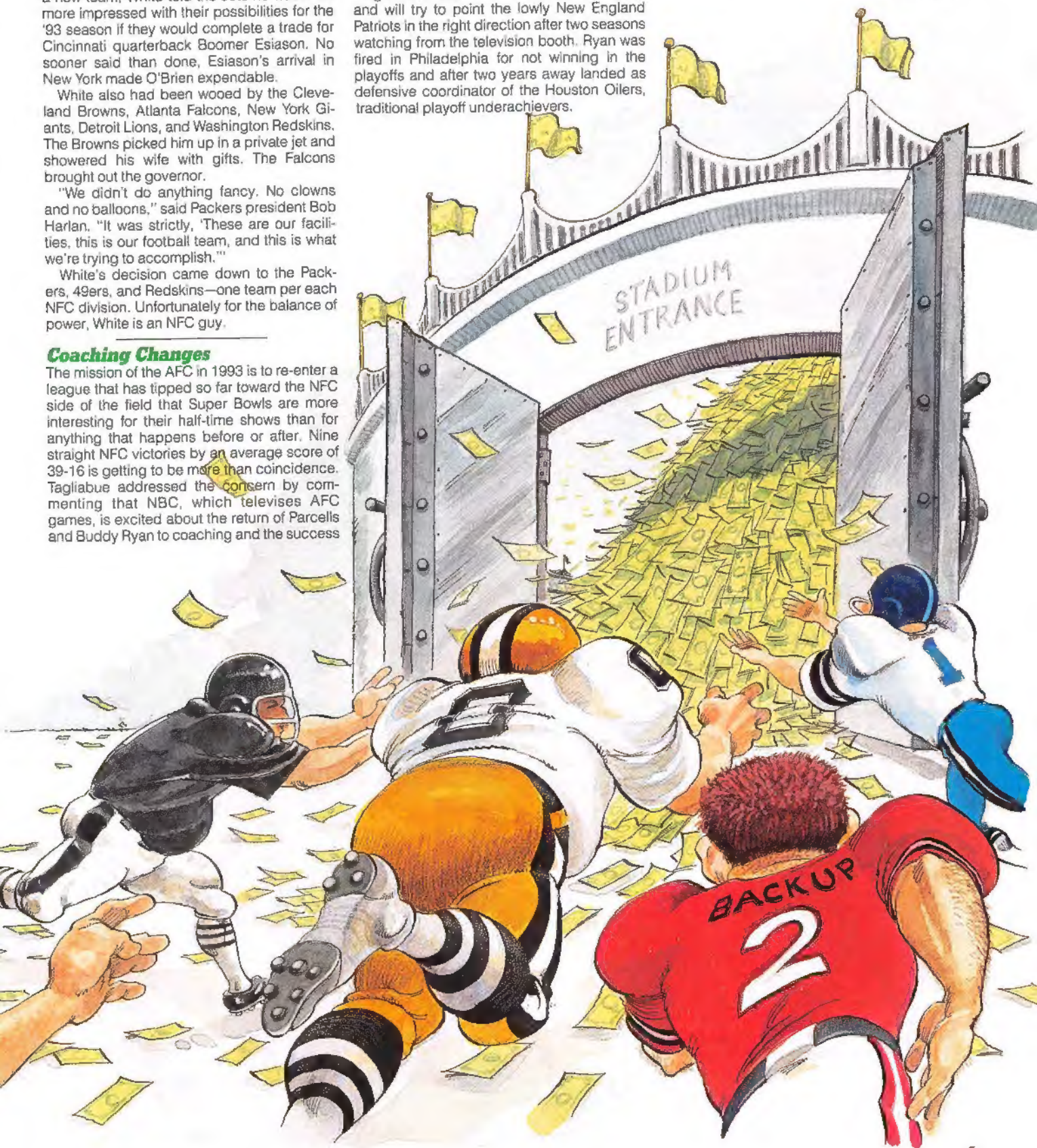
Coaching Changes

The mission of the AFC in 1993 is to re-enter a league that has tipped so far toward the NFC side of the field that Super Bowls are more interesting for their half-time shows than for anything that happens before or after. Nine straight NFC victories by an average score of 39-16 is getting to be more than coincidence. Tagliabue addressed the concern by commenting that NBC, which televises AFC games, is excited about the return of Parcells and Buddy Ryan to coaching and the success

general manager Bobby Beathard had last season in San Diego. Tagliabue labeled it "the brain drain." All three men come from the powerful NFC East Division, which has contributed the last three Super Bowl champions and sent a representative to seven of the last 10 games. Parcells won twice with the Giants and will try to point the lowly New England Patriots in the right direction after two seasons watching from the television booth. Ryan was fired in Philadelphia for not winning in the playoffs and after two years away landed as defensive coordinator of the Houston Oilers, traditional playoff underachievers.

The NFC East also lost Gibbs, widely acclaimed as the finest coach in the game. After three Super Bowl titles and a fourth trip in 12 seasons, Gibbs admitted he was having trou-

continued



The State of the Game

ble recovering physically from the grind of the job and reluctantly hung it up in March. Gibbs gave credit to his successor, Richie Petitbon, who coached the defense for the Redskins and preceded Gibbs in Washington. "He made me look good," Gibbs said. Petitbon, of course, returned the compliment. Gibbs was the choice of his peers as the best coach of his time because he won despite constantly changing personnel. Most of the great coaches are accompanied during most of their careers by great quarterbacks. Gibbs won three Super Bowls with three different quarterbacks: Joe Theismann, Doug Williams, and Mark Rypien.

As stunning as the retirement of Gibbs was the firing of Mike Ditka by the Bears. Club president Michael McCaskey might as well have cemented the lakefront and criticized Michael Jordan while getting rid of one of sports' most familiar faces, the one that resembles the Bears' logo. Ditka's demise was as swift and unbelievable as his rise. From a hothead assistant for Tom Landry in Dallas, Ditka was brought back in 1982 by George Halas to the city and team he loved but left in a 1986 money dispute. Halas was labeled senile for doing it. After taking the Bears to the top and joining only Don Shula, Paul Brown, John Madden, and Gibbs as coaches to win 100 games in 10 years, Ditka was dismissed by Halas's grandson, who was labeled crazy for doing it. But McCaskey rebounded quickly by hiring another Dallas assistant, Dave Wannstedt, who went to Pitt—as Ditka did—and who openly idolized Ditka. Wannstedt had coached the No. 1 defense on the No. 1 team and joined the list of bright new coaching prospects that have entered the league in the last two seasons.

Two other coaches with new jobs are Dan Reeves, fired by Denver and hired by the Giants, and Reeves's successor, Wade Phillips. Reeves lost three Super Bowls with the Broncos, but that is no consolation for the AFC to lose him. At least he got to the Super Bowl.

The turnover in coaching left Dallas's Jimmy Johnson pondering his lofty place among peers. After only four years in the league, Johnson ranks behind only Shula, Buffalo's Marv Levy, New Orleans's Jim Mora, San Francisco's George Seifert, and Detroit's Wayne Fontes for service with one team.

The Cowboys were the youngest team in the league in 1992, so their success sounds an ominous note for the disciples of parity. But parity is another NFL myth. Only eight different franchises have won the last 22 Super Bowls, hardly an endorsement of the so-called balance owners feared they would lose under free agency.

The Cowboys lead the parade of new young stars and Aikman is at the forefront. He and Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw are the only quarterbacks drafted No. 1 in the league to take their clubs to Super Bowl victories. Jim Plunkett won for the Raiders after being dumped by his original team, the Patriots.

Rising Stars

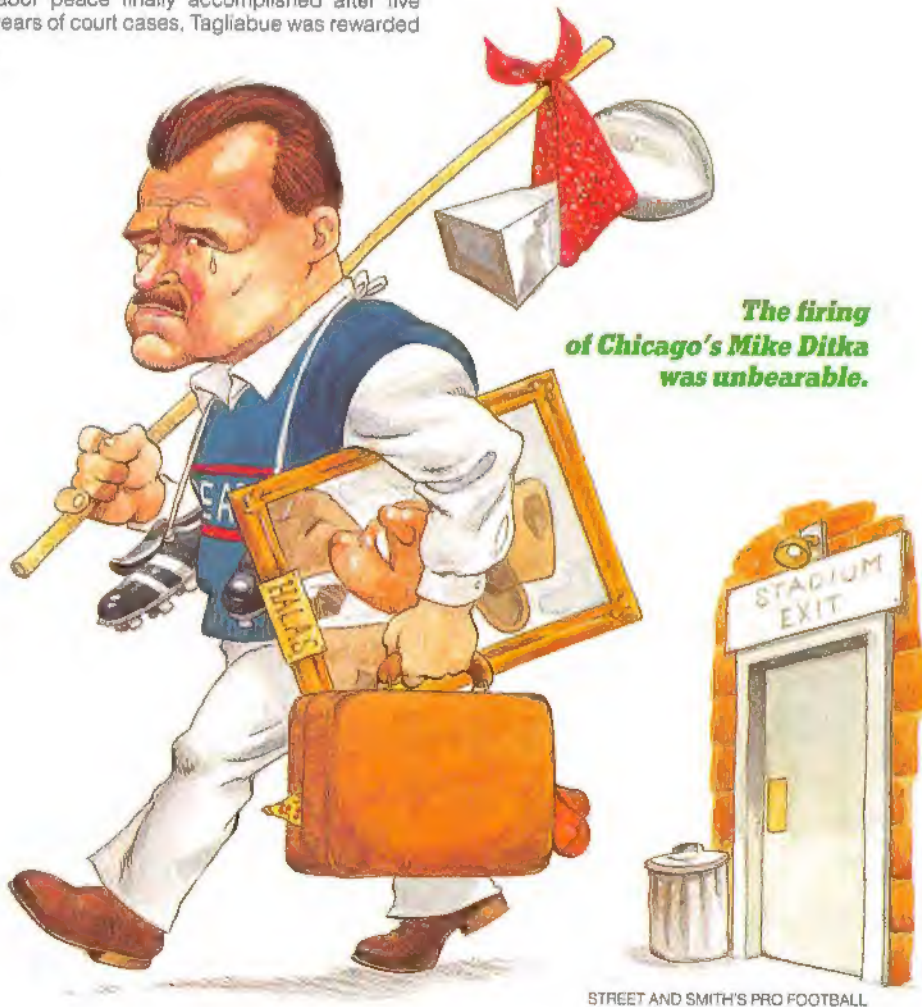
As Joe Montana, Lawrence Taylor, Mike Singletary, Ronnie Lott, Anthony Munoz, Eric Dickerson, and other stars of the '80s drift into retirement or retreat, they are eclipsed by new names for the '90s. Dallas's Emmitt Smith became the first back since Dickerson to win consecutive rushing titles. He did it at age 23. Seattle defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy donned the No. 99 jersey of his college buddy, Jerome Brown, killed in an auto accident, and rose to the top of his profession at age 24. San Diego's Junior Seau, like Smith and Kennedy a 1990 draft choice, became the league's prototype linebacker at age 24. Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre turned 23 last October and made the Pro Bowl. Buffalo safety Henry Jones, 25, led the league in interceptions with eight. New England running back Jon Vaughn, 23, led the league in kickoff returns. Phoenix running back Johnny Bailey, 25, led the league in punt returns. Miami kicker Pete Stoyanovich, 25, led the league in scoring.

For the first time since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, the league's six division winners were different from the year before. Three of the six—San Diego, Minnesota, and Pittsburgh—were guided by rookie coaches: Bobby Ross, Dennis Green, and Bill Cowher. This welcome diversity coincides with the arrival of free agency and the addition of two expansion cities projected to open the 1995 season. With labor peace finally accomplished after five years of court cases, Tagliabue was rewarded

with an extended contract and total paid attendance in the league broke a record for the fourth straight season.

Two clouds of caution are on the horizon: steroid abuse and television. Although the league has cracked down on the use of steroids by imposing random tests, two players—Eric Moore of the New York Giants and Mark Duckens of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers—were arrested on charges of trafficking in steroids. With free agent money as a new carrot, there is a renewed danger that players will do anything to get a chance to cash in. Details of new, improved drug-testing policies are being ironed out in the collective bargaining process following the labor litigation settlement.

Owners began talks for a new television contract this summer. Teams will receive \$40 million apiece in this final year of the deal with five cable and over-the-air carriers. Next year, the networks warn there will be a cutback. It would be unprecedented, and Tagliabue predicts the average payout will be no smaller than the average (\$32 million) of the present contract. Since television money provides the bulk of the cash that goes to player salaries, it is incumbent upon the players to keep up the good show. □



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Dallas and Sense

The Cowboys drafted wisely and rode three straight No. 1 picks all the way to the Super Bowl.

by **TIM COWLISHAW**

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

● A few years ago, the Dallas Cowboys landed at the bottom of the NFL scrap heap: 3-13 in 1988 and 1-15 in 1989. There were a number of reasons for the once great franchise's fall, but poor draft decisions were a major factor. From 1984 through 1987, Dallas's first-round picks were linebacker Billy Cannon, defensive tackle Kevin Brooks, wide receiver Mike Sherrard, and defensive tackle Danny Noonan. At last glance, only Sherrard was still on an NFL payroll, and he hasn't been a starter since 1986.

On January 31, the Cowboys completed their swift return to the top of the league with a 52-17 defeat of the Buffalo Bills. Three first-round draft picks, chosen in 1988, 1989, and 1990—Michael Irvin, Troy Aikman, and Emmitt Smith—had as much or more to do with the team's reversal of fortune and third Super Bowl title as anything.

It began, as most tales of success do, with a stroke of luck. And in the spring of '88, few teams were more in need of luck than the Cowboys. America's Team had fallen on hard times. Back-to-back losing seasons after 20 consecutive winning years were unacceptable. With the Mavericks extending the Los Angeles Lakers to seven games in the NBA West finals that spring, the Cowboys weren't even sure they were still Dallas's Team.

Michael Irvin

Needing help everywhere, but with Sherrard, their No. 1 pick in 1986, having twice broken his leg in the previous year, Dallas had no big-play wide receivers. In a draft that featured several topnotch receivers—Notre Dame's Tim Brown, South Carolina's Sterling Sharpe, and Tennessee's Anthony Miller—the Cowboys focused on Irvin, Miami's playmaker. In fact, they rated him No. 1 on their board, ahead of linebacker Aundray Bruce, who would be selected first by Atlanta. But the Cowboys didn't pick until the 11th spot, and the Raiders, in the sixth and ninth slots, were also interested in Irvin. Further complicating their plans were the Rams, who had the 14th pick and were trying desperately to move up to get Irvin. It was a nervous morning at Valley Ranch, but when the Raiders selected Brown at the sixth spot and the Giants declined to trade the 10th pick to the Rams, the Cowboys got their wish. They took Irvin, who made no attempt to hide his confidence. "I'll be playing

for the team with the star on its helmet. That describes what kind of player I am," he said.

"This accelerates our return to the living," proclaimed team president Tex Schramm. "Maybe the luck is changing."

There would be major changes, however, before Dallas would continue its recovery. Following a 3-13 season in 1988, the club was sold to Jerry Jones. Schramm, coach Tom Landry, and most of the rest of the front office were swept out. Those responsible for drafting Irvin never reaped the benefits. In fact, the dismal luck the team encountered in '88, losing six games by six points or less, gave the new Cowboys' regime the opportunity to make the first selection in the 1989 draft. Coach Jimmy Johnson recalls that he liked Florida State cornerback Deion Sanders, Alabama linebacker Derrick Thomas, and Oklahoma State running back Barry Sanders, and that he considered drafting them.

For about two minutes.

Troy Aikman

"We never really had any question about Troy Aikman being our first pick," Johnson said. "I had known Troy from the time he was in high school at Henrietta (OK). We tried to recruit him to Oklahoma State, and then I tried to get him to transfer to Miami after he had broken his leg at Oklahoma and made the decision to leave. But he went to UCLA."

Having lost the battle for Aikman's services twice, Johnson had this one cinched. "Just to reconfirm our thoughts, we went out to UCLA and worked him out. We didn't say who we were going to take with the No. 1 pick until we negotiated the contract, but there was never any doubt," Johnson said. "The reason we won at Miami was because of our quarterbacks and defensive linemen, and we felt that was a starting point for us in the NFL, too."

Aikman had to pay his dues as a rookie when the team staggered to a 1-15 finish. He

Troy Aikman

Pete J. Groh

missed five games (including the club's only victory) with a broken left index finger, but there was no doubting his potential. Irvin, however, suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the sixth week and missed the rest of the season. Thus, two years after the 1988 draft, there were no sure signs that the Cowboys' first-round luck had changed with the selection of Irvin.

In 1990, the Cowboys still needed virtually everything except a quarterback. Johnson hoped to focus on defense in the draft, although his decision to take Steve Wash as a supplemental first-round pick the previous year had cost the Cowboys the first choice in the draft. But thanks to the Herschel Walker trade with Minnesota, Dallas owned the 21st pick in the first round.

Emmitt Smith

"The bulk of the draft the year before had been to help the offense," said Johnson. "We wanted to address defense early, but we made a couple of attempts to trade up for players that were unsuccessful." The Cowboys wanted linebackers James Francis and Lamar Lathon, but they were taken by Cincinnati and Houston, respectively, with the 12th and 15th picks. Johnson kept looking at one name high on the Cowboys' draft board—he says it was in the top four—that had not been selected. Finally, the phone call to Pittsburgh was made and Dallas exchanged the 21st pick and a third-round selection for the 17th pick. And Emmitt Smith became a Cowboy.

"Emmitt's tag was sticking out on our board like a sore thumb," said Johnson. "The questions people had were because he had aver-

age speed for a running back and average size for a running back. But we had seen him play at Florida, and when we look at players we look at productivity. That put him back near the top of the board."

The talents of Irvin, Aikman, and Smith just started to blend in 1990. Smith won Rookie of the Year honors and was the Cowboys' only representative in the Pro Bowl. Aikman's confidence grew in his second season as he led the team to a 7-7 record and the doorstep of the playoffs before suffering a separated shoulder in the 15th game at Philadelphia. And Irvin, after missing the first four games while continuing to rehabilitate his right knee, finished with just 20 catches, his lowest total. The fact that five went for touchdowns at least indicated that his big-play skills were not completely gone.

In 1991, it all came together under the guidance of new offensive coordinator Norv Turner. His system, imported from the Rams' Ernie Zampese, with its emphasis on short quarterback drops and timing routes, helped Aikman avoid the poundings he had taken his

first two years. It allowed Smith to continue to confound opponents with his elusive running style. And it made a star of Irvin. In his fourth year in the NFL, Irvin caught 93 passes for 1,523 yards, sixth highest in league history. He capped that with an MVP performance in the Pro Bowl, where Aikman and Smith were his teammates. Suddenly, it was all coming into focus. In the first rounds of the 1988, 1989, and 1990 drafts, the Cowboys had scored big by obtaining, arguably, the game's best young receiver, quarterback, and running back.

Regardless of whether one chooses to put Detroit's Barry Sanders slightly ahead of Smith or Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe on a par with Irvin, the Cowboys are likely to be a major force in the 1990s because of this rare trio of stars. Barring the possibility that free agency will break up the threesome, the Cowboys enter the 1993 season with a 27-year-old receiver, 26-year-old quarterback, and 24-year-old running back at the top of their games. In the r

continued

Michael Irvin



Dallas and Sense

1992 Super Bowl season Irvin's receiving yards and Smith's rushing yards totaled 3,109. There wasn't another combination in the league that reached 2,500. Irvin missed by 104 yards from becoming the first player ever to record consecutive 1,500-yard receiving seasons, but his two-year total of 2,919 put him about 500 yards ahead of the competition (2,422 for Sharpe, 2,417 for Jerry Rice).

Irvin described his early struggles and recovery from knee surgery followed by two brilliant seasons as if they were one long game. "They won the first half. They went in at half time up 21-0, and we hadn't gotten a first down or anything. I would say I started bouncing back in the third quarter and won it in the fourth quarter. Now I'm running it up," he said.

Nobody's running up yards quite like Smith. His 1,713 yards in 1992 broke Tony Dorsett's team record of 1,646 and gave Smith his second straight rushing title. After just three seasons in the NFL, Smith has gained 4,213 yards more at this stage than Walter Payton, Earl Campbell, O.J. Simpson, Dorsett, and just about any other back you would care to name other than Eric Dickerson. "One of the biggest mistakes I used to make was just watching him after I handed him the ball, instead of continuing the drive," said Aikman. "He's amazing."

So, too, was Aikman during the stretch drive to the Super Bowl in 1992. Never known for piling up fantasy-league type stats since Smith scores so many of Dallas's short touchdowns, Aikman threw 20 TD passes with just three interceptions in the last nine games (including the postseason). He tied for the NFC lead with 302 completions and had the league's third-highest passer rating. His playoff statistics for three games were extraordinary: 61-for-89 (68.5 percent), 795 yards, eight touchdowns, no interceptions.

"Troy had a great three weeks," said Turner, looking back on the playoff run. "You've got to look at his play and let it speak for itself."

The problem for opponents is that they have to look at all three players simultaneously. Some double-cover Irvin and pay particular attention to tight end Jay Novacek and Alvin Harper, the club's other talented wide receiver (and another No. 1 pick). But that leaves too much of a running lane for Smith up the middle, where he is the most dangerous. Some teams challenged Smith with eight-man fronts. Denver limited him to 62 yards on 26 carries. Detroit held him to 67 yards on 19 carries. But it came at a price. Dallas still scored more than 30 points in both games.

Other Big Threes

Historically, what the Cowboys have a chance to do in the 1990s with three No. 1 skill-position players drafted a year apart is unprecedented. Of the teams of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s, the one that most closely resembled Dallas was the Pittsburgh Steelers. But their players arrived two years apart rather than in consecutive seasons. In 1970 they made Terry Bradshaw the first pick of the draft. They added Franco Harris with a first-round selection in

1972, then took Lynn Swann in the first round in 1974. They also got another great receiver, John Stallworth, in the fourth round in 1974.

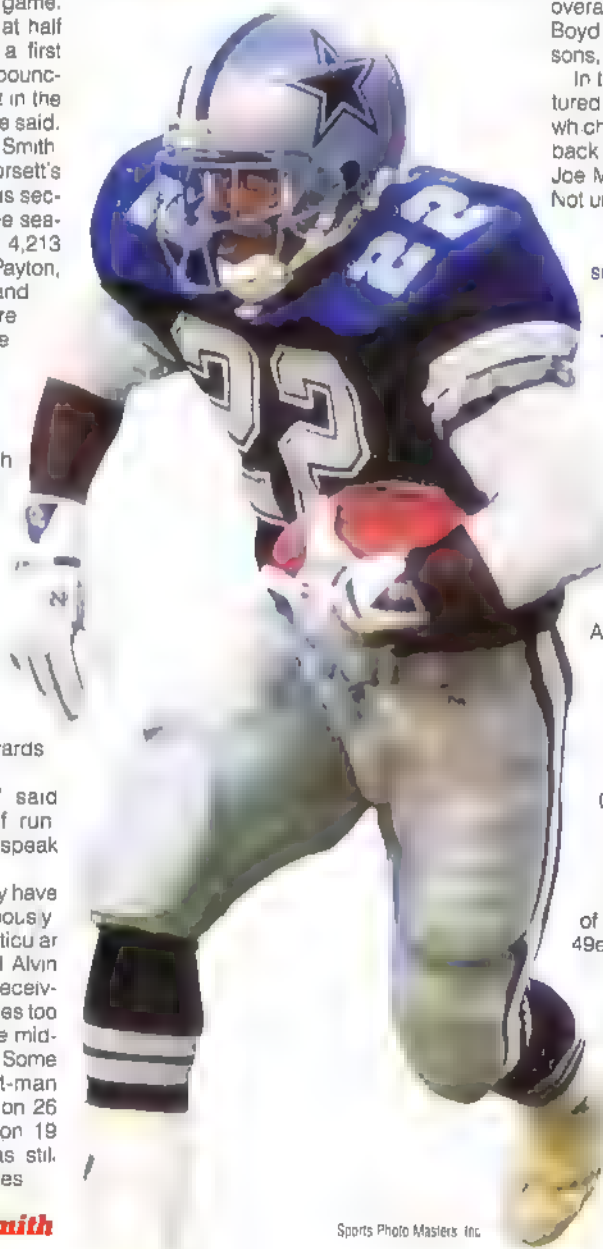
From 1960 through 1967, the Green Bay Packers played in six NFL championships, winning five, including the first two Super Bowls. Their key draft selections were made in the previous decade. Bart Starr, a 17th-round pick in 1956, was so highly regarded that he was originally given No. 42 by the Packers. Running back Paul Hornung was the first overall selection in 1957 and wide receiver Boyd Dowler, a major contributor for 11 seasons, was a third-round pick in 1959.

In the 1980s, the San Francisco 49ers captured four Super Bowls, but the manner in which they acquired their top quarterback back and receiver was completely different. Joe Montana was a third-round pick in 1979. Not until four years later did they draft running back Roger Craig in the second round.

The only first-round pick used for a key skill-position player came in 1985 with the drafting of Jerry Rice, now the NFL's all-time leader in touchdown receptions. The only other NFL club in 1992 that had a runner, passer, and receiver in the top 10 was the Houston Oilers. But where Smith, Irvin, and Aikman ranked one, two, and three respectively, the Oilers' Warren Moon ranked fourth in passing, Lorenzo White sixth in rushing, and Haywood Jeffires third in receptions.

Other playoff teams have their own "Big Threes," most notably Buffalo with Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, and Andre Reed, who have been instrumental in three straight AFC titles. Philadelphia has the potential to strike quickly with Randall Cunningham, Herschel Walker, and Fred Barnett, although Walker's role was being reduced late last season. But the trio that ranks the closest to the Cowboys not coincidentally plays for the club that came the closest to denying the Cowboys their Super Bowl trip: San Francisco's Steve Young, Ricky Walters, and Jerry Rice are all at different stages of their careers, but they figure to keep the 49ers competitive for the next few seasons.

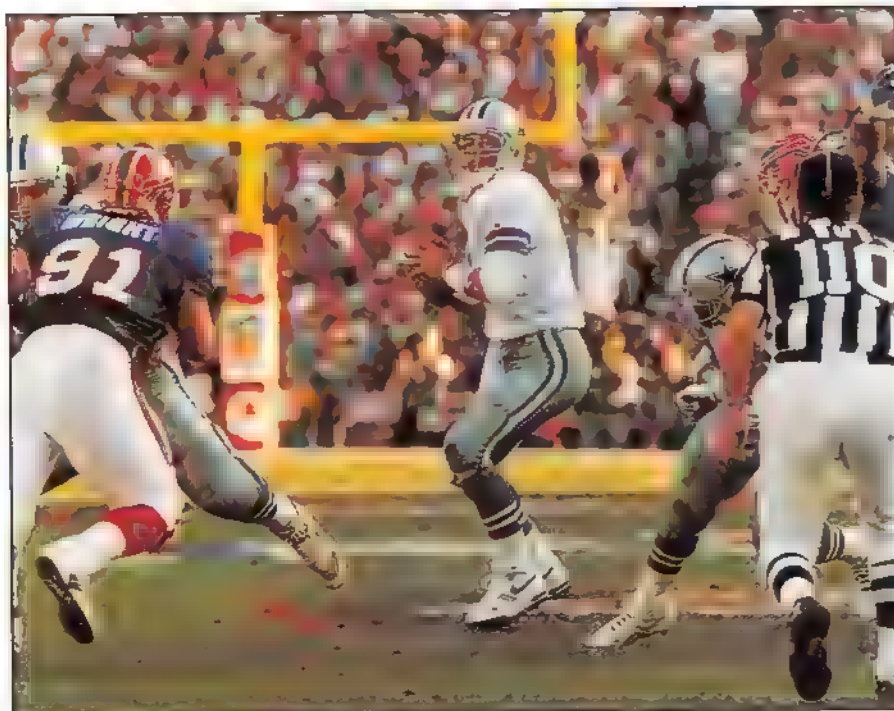
Naturally, the Cowboys won't have a chance to become the great team of this decade without substantial help from their youthful defense and strong offensive line, not to mention the receiving skills of Novacek and Harper. But the Aikman-Smith-Irvin combination has a chance to create its own place in history as No. 1 picks who arrived in Dallas in subsequent years and made the star on the helmet meaningful once more. □



Emmitt Smith

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THE HEADLINES OF '93

Read all about the biggest stories of the season before they happen

by **GLEN MACNOW**
PHILADELPHIA NO JIRER

Go back 12 months. Put yourself in mid-1992, when Redskins and Republicans still held all the important world titles. Imagine if someone had told you then that this NFL season would open with Joe Montana in Kansas City, Dan Reeves in the Meadowlands, and Reggie White as Leader of the Pack. Would you have believed it? Of course not.

Then consider all the tumult that's occurred in pro football since last season culminated with Jimmy Johnson's no-nuss Gatorade shampoo in the Super Bowl. More than 100 guys—the good, the bad, and the suddenly wealthy—switched clubs as free agents. Mike Ditka quietly disappeared. That's right quietly. Bill Parcells took over the Patriots (Are they still in the NFL?) So many players tried to escape the Eagles that the bus from Philadelphia began to resemble the Cuban Boat Lift. Who could have foreseen all that? Who could have predicted such improbable events?

Well, us that's who. Our crystal ball told us ahead of time that the Lions would slide. **Barry Foster** would glide and Ray Handley would be fired. Hey, any knucklehead can predict that Jim McMahon will get hurt this season (over/under six games) or that Buddy Ryan will prove to be Houston's big-



Gino Marchetti Returns

In a rare display of justice, pro football's Pooh-Bahs award expansion teams to St. Louis and Baltimore. St. Louis dubs its club the "Sleamers," joins the AFC Central, and wins the division after co-owner **Walter Payton** comes out of retirement to lead the league in rushing. Baltimore goes with the "Colts" (Hey, if the Canadian Football League can live with the Roughriders and Rough Riders, why not the NFL?). and moves into the NFC East. With Washington, New York, and Philadelphia already on board, Amtrak stock goes through the roof.



Saints Come Stumbling In

Mortally embarrassed after dropping nine straight Super Bowls, AFC owners hold a secret meeting to find a cure. Their remedy? Trade the entire New England franchise for New Orleans. Patriots coach Bill Parcells used to dominating the NFC, goes along willingly. So do dem Saints, figuring this is finally their chance to triumph. The strategy is ruined when, even in the junior conference, New Orleans can't win come playoff time. The Saints drop a wild-card game to Houston, whose new defensive coordinator, **Buddy Ryan**, knows how not to blow a big lead. Of course, Ryan is aided by Saints coach Jim Mora, who, despite being down 35-3 in the fourth quarter, runs the ball off tackle on 13 straight plays.

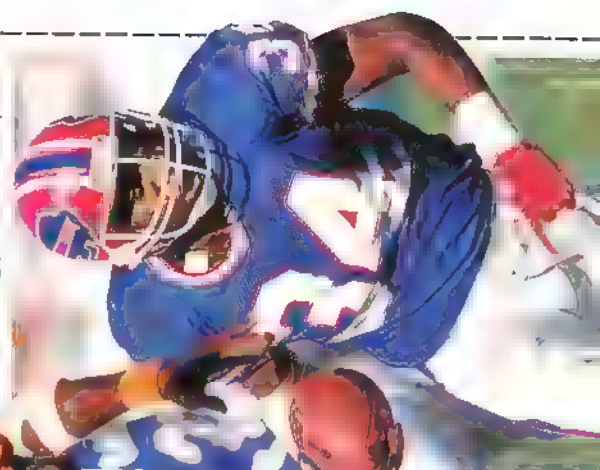


Headed for a Fall

We hate to predict bad things for anyone's career, but each season some guys have got to tumble. Our leading candidate is **Thurman Thomas**, the Bills' great running back. We're not doubting Thomas, but history tells you that, more than any position runners tend to have their best seasons as young men. After five seasons, most are headed down, almost inevitably because of injuries. It happened to great ones like Earl Campbell and Marcus Allen. Thomas, with almost 2,000 career rushes and catches has taken a lot of hits in his five years.

Other established stars due for a tumble: Earnest Byner, Eric Martin, Steve McMichael, Hersche Walker, Warren Moon, Chris Burkett, and Clyde Simmons. In the case of Simmons, you can't blame him.

With Reggie White gone, opponents will triple team the Eagles' remaining pass-rusher supreme.



AP/Wide World

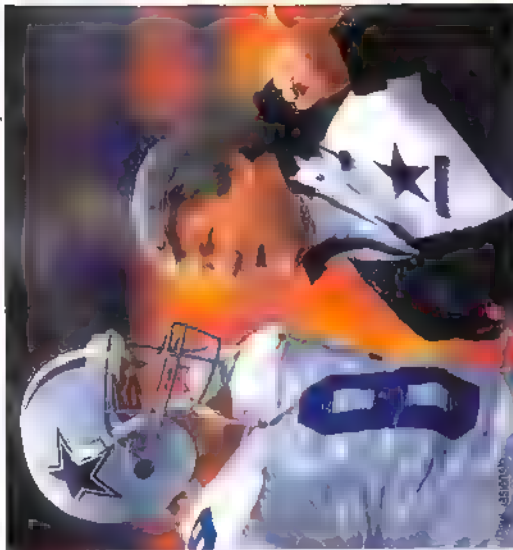
Eagles' Crash Landing

Philadelphia owner Norman Braman continues to slash costs. In September, this car dealer offers a two-for-one special to teams wanting to buy his defensive starters. In October, the man who actually charges players for sanitary socks (no kidding), installs pay toilets in the Vet Stadium locker room. In November, Braman, a wine connoisseur, accepts a trade proposal from Dallas's Jerry Jones. Two cases of world-class Bordeaux in return for Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons. Unfortunately, Braman's wine turns to vinegar and so, too, does his ball club.

Cowboys Thrown From Mount

We're not daft enough to predict the imminent decline of pro football's brightest franchise. But we do know how hard it is to repeat as Super Bowl champ. Cowpokes coach **Jimmy Johnson** himself said in March that he fears the advent of free agency will cause players to start comparing paychecks. "We still have good chemistry," he said, "but I worry a little about the effect all of this will have on guys' egos."

We worry too. Keeps us up at night. So we'll predict a slight dip by the 'Boys from Irving. Nothing to keep them out of the postseason, mind you, but perhaps just a one-season burp to interrupt their decade-long feast of championships.



continued



Michael B. Reber

No Go for Joe

Prove us wrong, **Joe Montana**. Show us that, just as you've been prematurely buried before, we're too quickly pulling out the shovels this time. But, excited as everyone is about Joe Cool going to Kansas City, we don't see this culminating in Super Bowl Ring V First off, Montana is 37 years old and the last quarterback to win a championship at that advanced age was, er... well, nobody. Second, the Chiefs are a line team, but, let's face it, J.J. Barden is no Jerry Rice and K.C.'s front line provides nothing close to the protection Montana had in San Francisco. And third, lest anyone forget the greatest quarterback of the past quarter-century played less than 30 minutes of football in the past two years.

New team, new town, new offense, old injuries. It's no Super Bowl equation. Much as we'd love to see Montana succeed, we have these haunting visions of Joe Namath limping onto the field for the Rams and of an aged Johnny Unitas dragging his high-tops into the game for the Chargers.

Jets Get a Lott of Help

The crazy-quilt movement of free agents around the NFL this spring figures to change some teams' personalities and alter pro football's balance of power. The players we foresee making a major impact include defensive tackles Pierce Holt and Jumpy Geathers with the Falcons ("We've finally got a few linemen over six-foot tall," jokes coach Jerry Glanville), H-back Rod Bernstein with the Broncos, center Kirk Lowdermilk with the Colts, wide receiver Gary Clark and safety Chuck Cecil with the Cardinals, middle linebacker Shane Conlan with the Rams, quarterback Jeff Hostetler with the Raiders, and safety Tim McDonald with the 49ers.

But for one-year impact, we love the Jets' signing of 33-year-old safety **Ronnie Lott**. For sure, Lott can't cover receivers like he used to and he may be closer to Canton than to his next Pro Bowl. But listen to Jets coach Bruce Coslet. "He's a warrior who brings us the intangibles of toughness and inspiration. We had eight rookies last season and seven



second-year players. Just watching how Ronnie Lott approaches the game ought to make them better."

The Jets went searching for a little leadership. They found a Lott.

Wisconsin: America's Winter Wonderland

Remember the argument that free agency would destroy the NFL's Rust Belt teams? In a world of free choice, commissioner Paul Tagliabue testified during last year's big in-a-team-like the Browns, Bengals, Bills, and Packers "would have trouble surviving."

Well, it didn't happen, of course. In fact while free agents dropped their beach balls



Brian Yaborsky

and fled California, no place proved more popular than the tiny, frigid hamlet of Green Bay. The Packers built an offensive line behind free agents Harry Galbreath and Tunch Ilkin and a defense line behind **Reggie White** and Bill Maas.

Why Green Bay? Maybe the residents know something we don't. Maybe Wisconsin is a great place to spend January, slush and snowdrifts and all. We suspect that the \$17 million given to White played a role. But a big part of it is coach Mike Holmgren, a guy who learned how to win and treat his players well in San Francisco.

A Shade Tree Grows in Gotham

Forecasting the success of NFL rookies is as risky as betting on pork belly futures. We were among those who prematurely anointed Vinny Testaverde as the next Sammy Baugh. Still, two first-rounders in the 1993 draft strike us as sure things.

The Rookie of the Year on defense will be the Jets' **Marvin "Shade Tree" Jones**, the intense roving linebacker who reminds us of a young Mike Singletary. Coaches at



Florida State last season didn't just keep track of Jones's sacks and tackles. They kept a running list of the times he left opposing ball carriers stunned by his hits.

On offense, the top freshman will be Phoenix running back Garrison Hearst. Ask NFL scouts to compare Hearst's style with any others and the names that come up are Emmitt Smith and Walter Payton. Whew, pretty good company! Some teams were scared off by the slight garment damage in Hearst's left knee, but the last guy who got that rap coming out of college was Thurman Thomas. We predict a Thurmanator kind of year for Hearst—a 1,500-yard rookie season with lots of Chris Berman nicknames. Meanwhile, it'll be Phoenix rising as the mildew-covered Cards finally emerge from the NFC East basement. Sorry, Giants fans.



Unemployment Lines of the Rich and Famous

The advent of free agency this year prompted NFL owners to spend like so many Trumps, making overnight millionaires out of career nickelbacks and special teamers. Can someone explain \$13 million a year for cornerback **Melvin Jenkins**? Or \$14 million for guard Brian Habib?

The explanation of course is that—like their counterparts in baseball, football's owners got caught up in the competitive lunacy that accompanies an open market. But the key difference is that a salary cap will kick in for the NFL after this season, limiting teams to spending about \$32 million, or \$600,000 for the average player. When that happens, expect a shakeout of the marginal players. Without guaranteed contracts, it will be one year of riches followed by rapid unemployment for many of pro football's mediocre millionaires.

"The players earning these marvelous salaries will have to pay up to their paychecks," said Giants co-owner Robert Tisch. "Or after this season, they'll simply be let go. There could be a lot of high-priced, out-of-work players."

Washington Slipped Here

After more than a decade at the top, the geriatric Redskins are finally laid to rest. Let's face it, Washington made the playoffs on memories last year, like some 80-year-old senator who gets re-elected because the voters can't bring themselves to turn the geezer out. What you've got at RFK this season is an offensive line with enough floating cartilage to raise the Titanic, a quarterback (Mark Rypien) who showed in 1992 that he's a lot closer to Jay Schroeder than to Sonny Jurgensen, and a Posse trying to limp ahead without Gary Clark, which is kind of like *Cheers* trying to stay on the air without its star Ted Danson.

What you've no longer got at RFK is **Joe Gibbs**, whose visage will next be seen when he joins Vince Lombardi, Chuck Noll, and Bill Walsh on the Mount Rushmore of pro football coaches. Gibbs retired for all the right reasons (health and family), but you've got to figure there's something in his timing. Like Bill Parcells in New York, he knew enough to get out of the house before it burned down. On the other hand, Richie Peterson is no Ray Handley. So even as we predict the Skins will stumble in '93, we respect their front office and coaches enough to believe they'll be back on top before long.



Who's the Starter?

What did Chris Miller do last season? He threw for 15 touchdowns and just six interceptions for the Falcons, finishing second in the NFL in passing. So what did Atlanta coach Jerry Glanville do in the offseason? He signed free agent quarterback **Bobby Hebert**, formerly of the Saints, to a three-year \$10.4 million contract. Hebert probably couldn't win a playoff game if you lined him up behind center Jim Langer and the 72 Dolphins. Still, Glanville refers to himself as "the world's biggest Bobby Hebert fan."

So who'll open in Atlanta? We're not sure, but we do know this: The first time the starter throws a few interceptions, the crowd will demand the backup. And given that Glanville isn't exactly Mr. Stability, he'll probably listen to the rabble.



The next best choice for a quarterback controversy is Phoenix, where newcomer Steve Buehler's Promethean contract makes him the apparent starter. But Cards fans couldn't ask for more than Chris Chandler gave in '92, especially with about six tacklers draped around him on most passing attempts. Expect heat out of Phoenix.

Now, if we can just find a way to get Jeff Hostetler back to New York. □

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Steve Young's Winning Style

by **DWIGHT CHAPIN**

SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER

What does Steve Young have to do? He was the National Football League's Most Valuable Player in 1992 and was named to every all-star team in sight. He's been the NFL's highest-rated passer for the last two seasons.

In February, the San Francisco 49ers designated him their "franchise player." Yet many fans in the San Francisco Bay Area thought the 49ers should trade him and not team legend Joe Montana, who initiated his move to Kansas City for the Chiefs. No. 1 pick in the '93 draft, Young's sin, as his detractors see it, He hasn't led the 49ers to a victory in the Super Bowl, something Montana did a record-tying four times.

It didn't help when the 49ers, who were seen by many as the premier team in pro football in '92, fell to the youthful Dallas Cowboys in the NFC championship game. Young did throw two interceptions against the Cowboys, but there were enough 49ers mistakes in that game to spread blame around the entire roster. The defense, in particular, failed at crucial moments. But, as many remembered, Montana always seemed to surmount the misdeeds of his teammates and win. Young, on a wet and muddy Sunday at Candlestick Park, did not. So, despite the fact that he completed 25 of 35 passes for 313 yards and a touchdown, many focused only on the loss, and on what Young hadn't done lately.

Young was as upset about the defeat as anybody. "When you get to this point, you know how hard it is to lose," he said. "Around here, we really expect to go all the way every year."

It was a bad end to a great season for Young, a quarterback who finally emerged in 1992 as the best on his team, and—by many measures—the best in pro football. The major reason for that may have been that the left-hander out of Brigham Young and the United States Football League finally became his own man. Young had great statistical success in 1991 (an NFL-high 101.8 rating) after he

continued

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Steve Young's Winning Style *continued*

look over the 49ers when Montana was sidelined by elbow surgery. Yet he frequently was frustrated in trying to run a Montana-style offense. The turning point came in the final game of the '91 season, a 52-14 victory over the Chicago Bears in which Young completed 21 of 32 passes for 338 yards and three touchdowns and ran eight times for 63 yards and a fourth score.

"Before that game," 49ers coach George Seifert said, "Steve had played very well, but many times he seemed to be struggling, almost as if he were fighting with himself. I told him to just move the club and not worry about how he had to do it. I said, 'You have God-given abilities. Just take advantage of them.'"

Young's self-analysis:

"When you take the job of quarterback with this team, there's a lot of history and a lot of expectations that go along with it. I used to try to do everything possible all at once, sometimes on every play. Obviously, my expectations, or at least my reactions, weren't practical as far as being consistently productive. After I got hurt, I realized it was my job to orchestrate the offense, not play every instrument. I had to relax more and let everything come together. After the Chicago game, I thought, 'This is how it should be.' From that day, I couldn't wait for the new season to begin."

I took Seifert several games into the '92 season to become a believer in the new Young. "It became obvious to me that Steve had shaken whatever demon it was that had bothered him," Seifert said. "He finally seemed to be at peace with himself, rather than fighting himself and trying to do too much."

Young's teammates definitely noticed. Offensive tackle Harris Barton, Young's former roommate, said "In 1991 Steve put all the pressure on himself and had all 47 of the guys riding on his shoulders. That's why, when things didn't go right, he was totally heartbroken. Now, he realizes everybody is getting paid to work, too, and he's responsible for just doing his share of the work."

It's not hard to figure why Young felt the need to bear so much responsibility. As the great great grandson of Mormon leader Brigham Young, and a terrific player, he was The Man at BYU, and the runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1983. Rather than go on to the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals, who wanted to make him the draft's No. 1 pick, he signed a headline-grabbing, \$40 million contract with the Los Angeles Express of the USFL and was immediately looked upon as the savior of an upstart league that was trying to buy credibility. Then, after the Express went bankrupt and the USFL folded, Young was supposed to be the cornerstone of a growing NFL franchise in Tampa Bay. But the Buccaneers gave him so little support he could win only four games in two seasons.

Young persuaded the Bucs to trade him to the 49ers, at a time when doctors were saying Montana's back wouldn't hold up much longer. But it did, and Young, even though then-coach Bill Walsh said he would be the next great 49er quarterback, became just a much-publicized backup, chafing in that role for four seasons. So, when he finally replaced the in-

jured Montana as the 49er starter, there was little wonder he tried to do too much too often.

Things were different in '92. Montana was on injured reserve and the 49ers became Young's team. "I played enough in '91 that was familiar with the difference between being somebody who came off the bench to make a big play and somebody who had to step in and lead the team every week," he said.

Outwardly, at least, he was able to shrug off the persistent criticism and the unfavorable comparisons to Montana much better than he had in '91. The way offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan saw it, Young improved almost every week in his ability to get the most out of the system, out of each play and most important, out of himself.

"Everybody's got different strengths," Shanahan said. "Joe Montana's got such a feel for when to throw the timing pass, for hit-

All Young has wanted to do is play. And when he finally got the chance in San Francisco, he played brilliantly.

ting the seams, for reading the entire field. Steve's got a strong arm and the ability to make a great play out of something that shouldn't be a play at all. We've all seen that with some of his great runs as well as his passes. A lot of people have to throw certain passes on time to get the ball there before the defense makes its break. Steve has such arm strength that he can wait a little longer."

Young is as strong as most running backs, and over the years has been a skilled and fearsome runner, lending an endearing recklessness to his game. But some think all the running has been a detriment to his passing.

Shanahan disagrees. "Being able to run is not a liability if it is used properly, and I think Steve is using it properly," he said. "He keeps his head up and looks for receivers. He doesn't look once, then put his head down and run. The more he plays the more instinctive he seems to be with the offense."

His turbulent stay in San Francisco isn't the first time that Young has ridden a roller coaster. He is one of the four sons of LeGrande Young, a New York corporate lawyer and former Brigham Young football player who lived up to his nickname, "Grit."

"He was the kind of guy that when I'd wake up Saturday mornings at, say, nine o'clock and was supposed to mow the lawn, the lawnmower would be going," Young said. "He would want me to come sprinting out so he could say, 'I can't wait all day.' You know, it was the old 'I delivered papers in the snow' business when I was growing up. My dad wanted you to do everything perfectly. And he wanted to keep you humble."

The discipline didn't always suit him. When Steve followed his father to BYU, he was an eighth-string quarterback, after his freshman year the coaches wanted to move him to de-

fensive back. He returned to his home in Greenwich, CT, and told Grit he was going to quit. "You can quit," his dad supposedly responded, "but if you do, you can't live here." Three years later, Young was the best senior quarterback in the country, one of BYU's proudest, and soon to become very rich.

And now he's an even richer young man. As the 49ers' "franchise player," his salary—a reported \$2.5 million in 1992—will be bumped up to the top five at his position in the NFL. He has earned respect all over the league and most conspicuously, from his teammates. Last December, they voted him the Les Eshmont Award (named in honor of one of the original 49ers in 1946) which is emblematic of inspiration and courage.

"I'm bowled over by it," he said when he got the award. "My dad would take a lot of heart in this, because he was big on relationships. He always told me, 'If you don't want to be part of the team, then go play golf or tennis.' He was big on playing your part. He made me stick with things."

At this point, Steve Young knows all about sticking with things. And, truth be told, he has managed to handle the delicate situation with Montana better than Montana, whose snippy comments about Young and their respective roles made their way into print occasionally. Before Montana returned to play for the 49ers briefly against Detroit at the end of last season, Young, who is studying to become a lawyer, was the picture of aplomb and grace.

"I know they will be cheering for Joe, and I understand that," he said without a trace of jealousy or bitterness. "It's inspiring for all of us to see him back on the field after people said he couldn't come back. People try to pull us apart, but we're both team-oriented." Young was just as deft after hearing the Candiest Park fanaticism directed toward Montana. "That's quite a tribute," he said. "He doesn't play in two years, and they treat him like that. That's wonderful."

It would be wonderful if the 49er fans treated Steve Young that way someday, too. Given his intelligence and his sensitive nature, he'd appreciate it. The bottom line is that all Young really has wanted to do over the years is play. And when he finally got a chance to do that in San Francisco, he played brilliantly.

But there remains a fierce lack of loyalty to Young among the 49er faithful. It seems that no matter how well he does, that won't be enough for enough people. For them, even if Steve Young should wind up in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, they'll want an asterisk on his plaque and a notation that says, "Wasn't as good as Joe Montana." Young's agent, Leigh Steinberg, is well aware of all this, and suggested early this year that his client might like to find a community that better appreciates his talents.

Young said no. "I have battled and this is the team where I feel like I can be the best," he said. "I've been with organizations that didn't have the attitude the 49ers do. If you're going to play football, and realize it's an organizational game, then this is the organization you want to be with. And that's been the case for many years."

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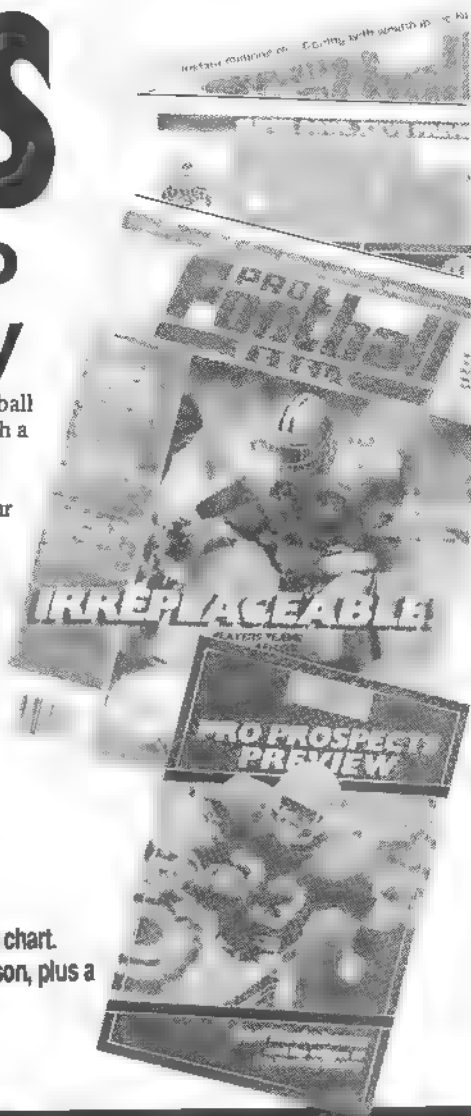
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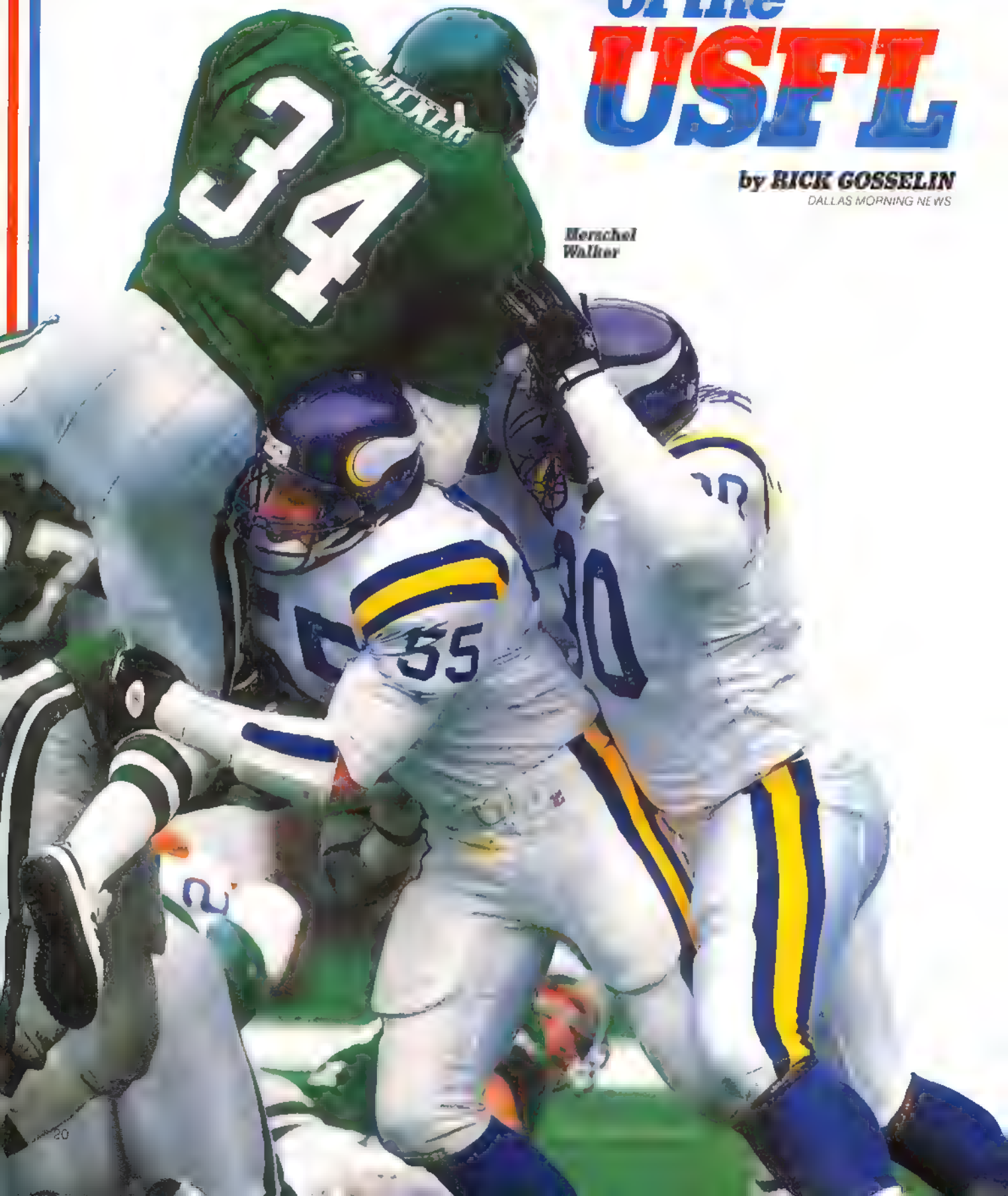
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The Legacy of the **USFL**

by **RICK GOSSELIN**
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Merachel
Walker



Since 1986, 28 former USFL players have gone to the NFL Pro Bowl.

The United States Football League left a sparkling legacy in the annals of American football. Not for the caliber of its play, but the caliber of its player.

As a league, the USFL was a novelty with its spring season, territorial draft picks, and two-point conversions. But television revenues and fan support never threatened those of the older, established NFL. Spring was a time for baseball, the NBA playoffs, the Masters, Indianapolis 500, and Kentucky Derby—not football. So the USFL finally pulled the plug on itself in 1986 after a three-year run. Its teams quietly faded away. But not its players.

Maybe the USFL wasn't the NFL. Maybe the Philadelphia Stars weren't the Philadelphia Eagles. But the best quarterbacks in the USFL could line up and play with the best quarterbacks in the NFL. The best USFL linebackers could play with the best NFL linebackers. And so on. That's not a matter of opinion. That's

titles (Reggie White in 1987-88), an NFL scoring title (Scott Norwood in 1988) and an NFC rushing crown (Herschel Walker in 1988). Kelly was selected the NFL Player of the Year in 1990 and Young in 1992. White, who has gone to the Pro Bowl in each of his seven NFL seasons, was chosen the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1987, an honor bestowed on Keith Milard in 1989. Doug Williams was the MVP of Super Bowl XXII. Anthony Carter set an NFL playoff record with 227 receiving yards in a game against San Francisco. Clark and Richard Johnson also have had 200-yard receiving games in the NFL and Gary Anderson a 200-yard rushing game.

The average NFL playing career is four years. But in 1992—seven years after the USFL last snapped a football—there were 55 former USFL players still performing in the NFL. Forty-four of them started games last season and nine went to the Pro Bowl.



based on a seven-year NFL documentation of USFL skills. Since 1986, 28 former USFLers have gone to the NFL Pro Bowl. Twenty different USFL alumni have been named NFL Players of the Week, eight have been Players of the Month, two named Players of the Year and two others Defensive Players of the Year.

"The NFL players had the feeling we had to go to the minor leagues before we could jump to the major leagues," said former USFLer Gary Clark, who tore with the Jacksonville Bulls before becoming a Pro Bowl wide receiver for the Washington Redskins. "Well, the minor leagues must have had some pretty good players."

USFL Alumni

USFL alumni have won the last three NFL passing championships (Jim Kelly in 1990 and Steve Young in 1991-92), two NFL sack

"I always thought we were better than the media made us out to be," said former Philadelphia Stars coach Jim Mora, who now coaches the New Orleans Saints. "But I didn't think we had as many good players as it turns out we did. I didn't appreciate how many good players we had until they came to the NFL and played so well."

Mora's Stars won two of the three USFL championships. Eight of the Stars are still in the NFL and five have developed into Pro Bowl performers: linebackers Mike Johnson and Sam Mills, center Bart Oates, defensive end William Fuller, and punter Sean Landeta.

The Los Angeles Express never won a USFL title. But veteran NFL architect Don Klosterman built them into one of the best young teams in all of football. Proof of that is the fact that 10 players from the Express are still active in the NFL, including Pro Bowl vet-

erans Young, Mel Gray, Kevin Mack, Lee Williams and Gary Zimmerman. Compare that with perennial NFL powers Dallas, Miami, San Francisco, and the Raiders. Each has only eight players still active from its 1985 team.

There were former USFL players on the rosters of 25 of the 28 NFL teams last season. New Orleans led the way with six and Houston was next with five. The three teams without any USFL players were Kansas City, Miami, and Pittsburgh—but there was a USFL presence on two of them. Carl Peterson, who built the Stars as president and general manager, holds the same titles with the Chiefs, and Dom Capers, a former Stars assistant coach, is now the defensive coordinator of the Steelers.

"The USFL was a better league than people gave it credit for," said Mills, who has played for Mora in both leagues. "Great players over there like White, Milard, Kelly, and A.C. [Carter] became great players over here."

The USFL attracted four classes of players: the NFL proven and unproven, and college proven and unproven. The USFL needed the proven to sell tickets and the unproven to provide the competitive balance. The NFL proven weren't hard to find—not with the money the USFL was flashing. Quarterbacks were a priority and the USFL signed veteran starters Vince Evans, Brian Sipe, Cliff Stoudt and Doug Williams. The USFL also signed safety Gary Barbaro, running back Joe Cnobs, tight end Dan Ross, linebackers Bobby Leopold and Jim LeClair, and offensive linemen Luis Sharpe and Ray Pinney. All were NFL starters. Barbaro, Cnobs, and Ross were Pro Bowlers. NFL stars Lawrence Taylor, Billy Sims, and Chris Collinsworth also signed future contracts with the new league but never played in the USFL.

The money was as good—and in some cases better—for the college proven. The USFL won bidding wars for five NFL first-round draft picks: Kelly, Milard, Gary Anderson, Mossy Cade, and Leonard Coleman. The USFL also signed three consecutive Heisman Trophy winners—Walker (1982), Mike Rozier (1983), and Doug Flutie (1984)—plus numerous All-Americans: Carter, Marcus Dupree, Fuller, Gordon Hudson, Mike and Vaughan Johnson, Marcus Marek, Oates, Wayne Radloff, Doug Smith, Tom Thayer, White, Young, and Zimmerman.

"The [NFL] draft prognosticators were saying I could go anywhere from the first to the third round," said Fuller, a defensive end from North Carolina. "The difference in money was huge. I felt if I could get Philadelphia to give me first round money, I had to go. Plus, they guaranteed it. So I really couldn't lose."

Walker, White, and Young signed landmark contracts. Walker forfeited his senior season at Georgia when he accepted a three-year, \$5 million contract from the New Jersey Generals. Young signed a staggering 43-year, \$40 million deal with the Express, and White became pro football's first million-dollar defen-

continued

sive linemen. In most cases, the USFL got what it paid for. Anderson, Barbaro, Carter, Cribbs, Fuller, Kelly, LeClair, Marek, Oates, Pinney, Radloff, Ross, Smith, Walker, White, and Zimmerman became all-USFL performers. Rozier, a 1,000-yard rusher, and Stoudt and Williams, 3,000-yard passers.

But the USFL got more than expected from its unproven. The new league provided refuge for NFL rejects like Dan Fike, Nate Newton, and Norwood. It was a third chance for Harry Sydney, who had already been cut by two NFL teams, and a fourth for Chris Godfrey, who had been waived by three teams. Mills's career had taken an even rockier turn. He had been cut by the Canadian Football League after washing out of his only NFL camp. Mills was undrafted by NFL standards to play inside linebacker at 5-9 and 225 pounds. Newton was oversized back then to play guard at 300-plus pounds. Sydney had been a wishbone quarterback in college but failed as a fullback in his NFL tryouts. Godfrey flunked as a defensive lineman.

Equal Opportunity

But there was greater equality among players in the USFL. There were no long-term incumbent starters and few preconceived notions about players. The best would play in the USFL. It was that simple. It made for a more relaxed setting for those who had already been through the pressures and politics of an NFL camp. "What were they going to do—cut us?" Newton mused. All of us had already been cut two or three times. We were supposed to be the bottom of the barrel. The pressure was off. We could relax, play ball and have some fun."

Newton came out of a small school (Florida A&M) and lacked the polish to play right away in the NFL. But the Tampa Bay Bandits could show more patience than the Washington Redskins. Washington had guards who were better than Newton. Tampa Bay didn't. So Newton started 36 straight games for the Bandits, playing line time that enabled him to overcome his deficiencies as a pass blocker. Newton signed with the Dallas Cowboys in 1986 when the USFL folded and moved into the starting lineup in '87. He's been there ever since, culminated by his first Super Bowl and Pro Bowl appearances in January.



Bobby Hebert

Godfrey also started a Super Bowl for the New York Giants. He can thank the Michigan Panthers for that opportunity. A defensive lineman as a collegian, Godfrey was moved to offensive tackle by the Panthers. So he was starting from scratch, and it showed in his USFL debut in 1983. He was beaten by a Birmingham defender for a sack on the very first play of the season. "I fell right on my duff," Godfrey recalled. "I thought, 'This is going to be a long uphill battle.' And it was for the first few games. But in the NFL I would never have gotten the chance to get beaten for a sack and be allowed to stay in there, make adjustments and learn the position the hard way. The USFL gave me a chance."

The USFL also gave Fike the chance to block, Mills the chance to tackle, Sydney the chance to run, and Norwood the chance to kick. Fike's blocking for the Bandits earned him a contract with the Cleveland Browns, for whom he has now started 100 games. Mills was a rare three-time all-USFL pick and has topped that with four Pro Bowl berths with the



Jim Kelly

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	Pro Bowls
Offense	5
QB—Jim Kelly, Houston Buffalo	2
HB—Herschel Walker, New Jersey/Dallas	2
FB—Kevin Mack, Express/Cleveland	4
WR—Gary Clark, Jacksonville Washington	2
WR—Anthony Carter, Michigan Minnesota	0
TE—Dan Ross, Breakers Green Bay	4
T—Gary Zimmerman, Express Minnesota	3
T—Luis Sharpe, Memphis Phoenix	1
G—Nate Newton, Tampa Bay Dallas	0
G—Bryan Millard, New Jersey/Seattle	3
C—Kent Hull, New Jersey/Buffalo	
Defense	7
DE—Reggie White, Memphis/Philadelphia	2
DE—Lee Williams, Express/San Diego	2
DT—Keith Millard, Jacksonville Minnesota	0
DT—Doug Smith, Birmingham Houston	
LB—Vaughan Johnson, Jacksonville/New Orleans	4
LB—Sam Mills, Stars New Orleans	4
LB—Mike Johnson, Stars Cleveland	0
CB—Wymon Henderson, Express/Denver	4
CB—Frank Minnifield, Arizona/Cleveland	0
S—Barney Bussey, Memphis Cincinnati	0
S—Antonio Gibson, Stars New Orleans	
Specialists	1
PK—Scott Norwood, Birmingham Buffalo	2
P—Sean Landeta, Stars/NY Giants	3
KR—Mel Gray, Express Detroit	

*Based on NFL productivity

Saints. Sydney showed he could run the ball with a 961-yard, 10-touchdown season for the Denver Gold in 1984. Since then he has picked up two Super Bowl rings as a backup with San Francisco and now starts at fullback for Green Bay. Norwood had four 100-point seasons and appeared in two Super Bowls and a Pro Bowl for the Buffalo Bills.

"If you're a good player, it shows up no matter where you're playing," said Jim Stanley, the former head coach of the Panthers and now the Oilers' defensive line coach.

Haven for the Unproven

The USFL also became a haven for unproven collegians. They came from big schools like Mississippi State (Kent Hull) and California (Gary Plummer), intermeddled schools such as James Madison (Clark) and Cincinnati (George Jamison), and small schools like Bethune-Cookman (Lee Williams) and South-

continued



Gary Clark

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USFL

west Texas State (Ricky Sanders) These players weren't All-Americans. Few even made a conference. What they needed was a chance to play and develop their skills. The NFL could not promise them that opportunity, but the USFL could.

Clark had to make the toughest decision of that group. He was an explosive return man at James Madison, with four career touchdowns. The NFL had a definite interest in him. But he considered himself a wide receiver first and foremost. The NFL did not. "They wanted me as a return specialist," Clark said. "But I wanted to be on the field more than that. I knew if I went to the USFL, I could play right away."

So Clark didn't even wait for the NFL draft, signing with the Jacksonville Bulls after they made him their first-round pick. He caught 66 passes in his rookie year in 1984, then jumped to the Redskins in 1985. He became a starter that year and has put together five 1,000-yard seasons and been to four Pro Bowls since then. He now ranks 19th on the NFL's all-time receiving list. "The learning experience I had in the USFL was great," Clark said. "I had Lenny Infante as a coach, and he was an offensive genius. Everything I learned there I use here."

Sanders and Plummer needed to learn new positions in the pros. Sanders was a running back in college but went to the Houston Gamblers as a wide receiver. Plummer was a nose tackle who went to the Oakland Invaders as an inside linebacker. "I wasn't good enough to make it in the NFL," Plummer said. "It was hard enough to go from college to the pro level at the same position, much less at a new one. So it was either the USFL or the CFL. That's the way it was for a lot of us."

Sanders learned his new position quickly, catching 101 passes from Kelly in his rookie year. He moved over to the NFL in 1986 and

developed into a 1,000-yard receiver for the Redskins. Plummer started all three seasons for the Invaders and wound up as the team's all-time-leading tackler. He signed with San Diego in 1986 and has started all seven of his NFL seasons, averaging 100 tackles per year.

Hull, Jamison, and Williams all needed work coming out of college. Hull had been a wishbone center, thus pass blocking was foreign to him. Jamison was converted to linebacker from defensive tackle in his final college season, so the reads at the position were still new.

FOR THE RECORD

Don Maynard ranks seventh on the NFL's all-time receiving list—even though only 87 of his 633 career catches came in NFL games. His other 546 catches came during his days in the American Football League.

Herschel Walker and his USFL pals are not getting the same break from the NFL record keepers. They had to start their NFL careers with a clean slate—none of their USFL statistics carried over. Walker has scored 129 touchdowns as a professional, more than any player in American football history. But because 61 of them came in the USFL, you won't find his name among the NFL's leaders. He also has enough rushing yards in his career to rank fifth all-time. But because 5,562 of them came in the USFL, he holds only the No. 24 spot in the NFL record book.

"The position I take is that if the AFL records counted, why not the USFL?" said Bill Polian, the former pro personnel director of the USFL Chicago Blitz and general manager of the NFL Buffalo Bills. "I don't understand why one is O.K. and not the other."

Reggie White ranks second to Lawrence Taylor on the all-time sack list with 124—but not if you count the 23½ White registered in the USFL. Only eight players in history have caught more passes than the 615 by Gary Clark. But the NFL subtracts the 66 he caught in the USFL and ranks him 19th in its record book. Jim Kelly ranks sixth all-time in touchdown passes and ninth in passing yardage. Minus his USFL numbers, he falls to 38th in NFL history in TDs and 43rd in yardage.

"I wish my USFL stats counted," Kelly said. "They'd look pretty good on my résumé. I'd even take the 76 sacks in the JSFL if I could have the others."

to him. Williams was a big-time pass rusher in college but had limited exposure to big-time pass blockers in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Hull learned the art of pass protection with the New Jersey Generals. By his third season he was an all-USFL pick. By his third NFL season in 1988, he was a Pro Bowl pick for Buffalo. Jamison was an all-rookie choice in the USFL and started both of his seasons with the Stars. He has been an NFL starter for the last

five seasons with Detroit and was named defensive MVP of the 1991 NFC Central Division champions. The big sack numbers continued for Williams in the USFL (13 with the Express in 1984), and they got even bigger after his move to the NFL. He had 15 sacks for San Diego in 1986 and 14 in 1989. Williams has 79



career sacks in the NFL and has been to two Pro Bowls.

"When you play, you improve," said Bill Kuchanich, the player personnel director of the Saints, who now works in the same capacity for the Saints. "Guys who came to the USFL got the chance to play."

Like Bobby Hebert, he would have been a third- or fourth-round draft choice out of Northwestern (LA) State in the great quarterback class of 1983 and likely would have spent his first few NFL seasons on the bench. Instead, he signed with the USFL and enjoyed immediate success. Hebert led Michigan to the inaugural championship and was named the JSFL's first Player of the Year. Since joining the Saints in 1985, he has posted a 49-26 record as a starting quarterback.

Mike Johnson was never an all-USFL pick, but he has been to three Pro Bowls for Cleveland. The same with Vaughan Johnson, no acclaim for his play in the USFL but four Pro Bowls in the NFL. Others like Frank Minnifield, Gray, Mack, Fuller, and Young all carved out better careers in the NFL than in the USFL.

The USFL woke NFL people up to the fact that there were a lot of guys out there who could play football. "Walker said, 'When the USFL went under, you noticed that all the NFL teams ran out and signed USFL players. It wasn't like they didn't want us or didn't feel we were good enough. They knew these guys could play.'"



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DRAFT CARD

A team-by-team appraisal

by **FRANK LITSKY**
NEW YORK TIMES



Drew Bledsoe

and LB Ron George of Stanford (fifth round) have speed immediate help should come from P Harold Alexander of Appalachian State, whose punts averaged 47.0 yards in 1991 and 44.4 in 1992

BUFFALO BILLS

Disappointing. General manager Bill Polian was fired after the Bills' third Super Bowl loss in three years, but at least he helped get them there, and without him the Bills were treading water in the draft. They had a ready-made OT Willie Wolford and ILBs Shane Conlan and Carlton Bailey to free agency and they drafted Little to replace them. Their first-rounder, CB Thomas Smith of North Carolina, is an insecure tackler and a reach. DT John Parrella of Tennessee (second round) is a run stopper with a pro future. The Bills drafted no linebackers and the two offensive tackles they picked—Corbin Lacina of Augustana (sixth round) and Chris Luneberg of West Chester (eighth round)—are small-college projects.

CHICAGO BEARS

Good. Dave Wannstedt, who replaced Mike Ditka as head coach, was big on speed and youth when he coached the Dallas Cowboys' defense and he got some of both for his new team. Before the draft, the Bears re-signed QB Jim Harbaugh for \$13 million over four years, maybe too much, but at least they have

continued

For its first 56 years, the draft of college players provided National Football League teams with a lifeblood of young, anxious talent. This year, the first in the wacky new world of unrestricted free agency, the draft took on a new role, although the people involved had trouble defining it. The teams had eight weeks to sign unrestricted free agents before the draft and 11 weeks afterward. First, most teams acquired or tried to acquire veteran players. Then they plugged some holes in the draft. Then they tried to fill the remaining gaps by again signing some of the vets' veteran players.

So while the draft shared its previously exclusive role, it still had a life of its own. For months, the draft fanatics studied the checklists and ratings from such draftniks as Joel Buchsbaum and Mel Kiper Jr. and Ourlad's Record numbers of people watched six hours of the draft on live television—if the reading of names can be called live.

The New York Giants had no first-round choice because they spent it the previous July for QB Dave Brown in the first round of a supplemental draft. The Philadelphia Eagles and the Phoenix Cardinals each had an extra choice because the unrestricted free agents they had designated as franchise players—DE Reggie White of the Eagles and SS Tim McDonald of the Cardinals—had signed with other teams. The collective bargaining agreement bound franchise players to their old teams, but franchise players who were defendants in antitrust suits against the NFL were allowed to move.

The first round produced a record-tying 11 trades. The most exciting action came after the New England Patriots had taken QB Drew Bledsoe of Washington State with the first pick overall and the Seattle Seahawks had settled for QB Rick Mirer of Notre Dame with the second pick. Everyone knew Bledsoe and Mirer would be chosen 1-2 or 2-1. But next up were the New York Jets, and no one was sure who the Jets would take. The favorite was MLB Marvin Jones of Florida State, but RB Garrison Hearst of Georgia was also a candidate. RB Blair Thomas, whom the Jets had made the second choice overall in 1990, had achieved

Little, and 72 hours before this draft the Jets made unsuccessful bids to sign RBs Derrick Fennell of the Cincinnati Bengals and Chris Warren of the Seattle Seahawks, both restricted free agents.

The Phoenix Cardinals, picking right behind the Jets, were worried. They wanted Hearst badly and they feared that the Jets would take him or trade the pick to a team, perhaps the Los Angeles Rams, that wanted him. So when the Jets' turn came during the draft, the Cardinals induced the Jets to swap picks. The sweetener for the Jets was RB Johnny Johnson, a productive but moody underachiever in his three years with the Cardinals. So the Cardinals got Hearst and the Jets got a prime running back free and then drafted Jones, the player they wanted anyway.

Even giving up Johnson, the Cardinals had perhaps the best draft of any team. The Kansas City Chiefs were up there, too, if you count the pre-draft trade that gave them QB Joe Montana. Kudos, too, to the Jets, the Patriots, the Bengals and the Denver Broncos. Boost for the Buffalo Bills, the Eagles, the Miami Dolphins, and the Cleveland Browns.

Here is a team-by-team look at the draft and the free-agent movements that affected what the teams did.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Just a fair draft. The defensive line got help beforehand with the free-agent signings of DEs Perce Holt and Jumpy Geathers. Bill Frazier and Houston Hoover, the starting guards, departed in free agency, and fast defenders were needed. The first-round pick landed OT Lincoln Kennedy of Washington State, 6-6 and 358 pounds, with an appetite to match. But he is athletic, and if he doesn't eat himself out of a job, he can be a perennial all-pro. So Roger Harper of Ohio State (second round)



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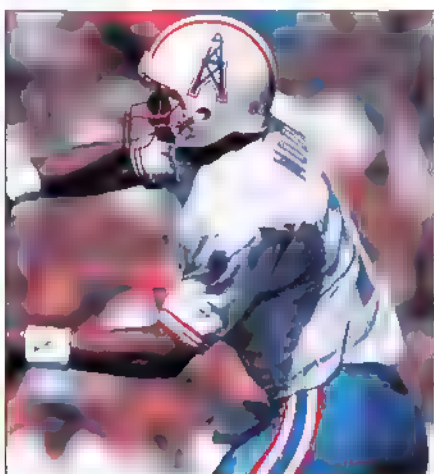
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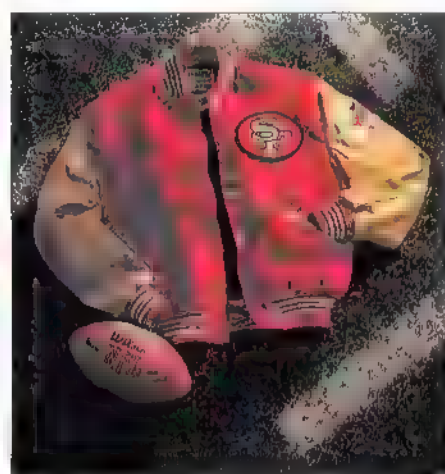
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DRAFT CARD

a quarterback. In the first round, they gave him WR/PR Curtis Conway of Southern California, who has game-breaking speed and great pro potential. As Wannstedt said, "Curtis is a big play waiting to happen." DT Carl Simpson of Florida State (second round) is a quick 280-pounder who must learn to shed blocks. The offensive line will get help from TE Chris Gedney of Syracuse (third round), a good combination blocker and receiver, and OG Todd Perry of Kentucky (fourth round), a quick and solid run blocker.

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Very good. The Bengals, never known as spenders, all but boycotted the pre-draft free-agency frenzy. They were besieged with draft-week offers because they had the fifth choice overall, but they kept it and took DT



Al Messersmidt

O.J. McDuffie

John Copeland of Alabama. He was one of the true gems in the draft, a blue-chip pass rusher who could also stuff the run. Then they picked TE Tony McGee of Michigan (second round), a blocker with pro skills. With the third-round choice they had for trading QB Boomer Esiason to the New York Jets, they tapped LB Steve Tovar of Ohio State, a king-sized plugger who should help immediately. Sleeper DB Forey Duckett of Nevada (fifth round)

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Not good. Before the draft, they signed plenty of free agents—QB Vinny Testaverde as a backup for Bernie Kosar, WR Mark Carrier, OG Houston Hoover and CB Najee Mustafa—and they traded for DT Jerry Ball. On draft day, they traded down to the 14th pick in the first round and took Steve Eversitt of Michigan, the best center on the board and a target of the Minnesota Vikings. But wouldn't DE Dan Williams have helped more? On the second round, they got DE Dan Fouts of Florida State, king-sized at 6-5 and 281, who had slipped down to the 42nd pick because of a chronic bad knee. OLBs Mike Caldwell of Middle Tennessee (third round) and Travis Hill of Nebraska (seventh round) may be p-

DALLAS COWBOYS

No fireworks, as in the days when they had all those Herschel Walker picks, but still a sound draft. They traded down out of the first round and picked two second-rounders from the University of Miami: coach Jimmy Johnson's old stomping grounds. WR/PR Kevin Williams, faster and probably better than the departed Kelvin Martin, and OLB Darrin Smith, swift but small at 6-0 and 228. RB Derrick Lassie of Alabama (fourth round) is a willing workhorse who can give Emmitt Smith a breather, and if he develops, the Cowboys may never have to pass. They took no quarterback in the draft, and veteran Hugh Millen, obtained as a backup, is not as good as Steve Beuerlein, who fled during free agency.

DENVER BRONCOS

Good. They signed OT Don Maggs and OG Brian Hall during the first eight days of free agency and then got them RBs Rod Bernstein and Robert Delpino to block for. On draft day, they traded up to the 11th pick of the first round, apparently to get WR Sean Dawkins to replace the departed Mark Jackson and help QB John Elway. But when the explosive DE Dan Williams of Toledo slipped down, they grabbed him. RB Glyn Milburn of Stanford (second round) is 5-8 and 177 and has third-down potential. FS Rondell Jones of North Carolina (third round) is big, quick and aggressive. DE Jeff Robinson of Idaho could be a fourth-round bargain.

DETROIT LIONS

Good, and not only because of the draft-day trade of a first-rounder and a fourth-rounder to the New Orleans Saints for all-pro OLB Pat-



John Williamson

Patrick Bates

Swilling. Before the draft, the Lions swept up such free-agent offensive linemen as Bill Fralic, David Lutz, and Dave Richards, and when they failed to land DE Reggie White, they opted for Swilling, a fiery pass rusher. With CBs Melvin Jenkins and Sheldon White lost to free agency, they took CB Ryan McNeil of Miami, a sharp, instinctive

player, on the second round. The two third-round picks were OLB Antonio London of Alabama, a smallish but fast pass rusher, and C Mike Compton of West Virginia, a big, tough run blocker.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Good. Pre-draft free agency brought the prize of prizes, DE Reggie White, and blocking help from OG Harry Galbreath and OT Tunch Ilkin. The draft unhappily brought no running backs. With their first-round pick, they passed up WR Sean Dawkins, who would have kept opponents from double-teaming Sterling Sharpe on every play, but took OLB Wayne Simmons of Clemson, who has speed but not always intensity. They traded with the Dallas Cowboys to get the last pick of the first round and chose CB George Teague of Alabama, a big-pay defender. OT Earl Dotson of Texas A&I (third round) is 6-3 and 315 pounds and—excuse the pun—not always hungry.

HOUSTON OILERS

Fair. Before the draft, the Oilers did little more in free agency than protect their own free agents. On draft day, Buddy Ryan, the new defensive coordinator and head coach in waiting, wanted quick help for his unit. But the Oilers traded up with Buddy's old team, the Philadelphia Eagles, for the 13th pick and took OT Brad Hopkins of Illinois, a quick 300-pounder who may start immediately for the departed Don Maggs. At 6-1, ILB Micheal Barrow of Miami (second round) is smallish but tough. WR Travis Hannah of Southern California (5-7, 161), taken in the fourth round, will help the run-and-shoot if he can get off the line. Sleeper DB Blaine Bishop of Ball State (eighth round).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Good. A year after they broke the bank to pay DT Steve Emtman and LB Quentin Coryatt, the first two overall choices in the '92 draft, the Colts determined to upgrade the offense. Before the draft, they bulked up their offensive line with big-buck free agents, signing OT Wil Wolford for \$7,650,000 over three years and C Kirk Lowdermilk for \$6,450,000 over three years. In the draft, their first pick was WR Sean Dawkins of California, a big (6-4, 213) and big-play receiver who should make a quick impact. They needed running backs, and in the second round they found FB Roosevelt Polls of Northeast Louisiana, 6-1 and too heavy at 258, but quick enough to get outside.

Sean Dawkins



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

When you get Joe Montana, maybe the best quarterback ever, for a first-round choice and get a player and a draft choice thrown in, you're off to a great start. Even a 37-year-old Montana whose bad elbow has limited him to two quarters in two years should be better than Dave Krieg, who took every snap last year. Because the Chiefs spent their second-round choice on DE Darren Mince in last year's supplemental draft, their first pick this time came in the third round. He was OG Will Shields of Nebraska, a 299-pounder who can pull. OLB Jamie Fields of Washington (fourth round) is tough but only 6-0 and may be more effective inside.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Not much and, par for the course for the Raiders, a little strange. They wanted a safety to replace Ronnie Lott and found a beauty in the first round in Patrick Bates of Texas A&M, one pick before the Philadelphia Eagles would have taken him. He's big, strong, athletic, and a quick fix. Because the Raiders had signed QB Jeff Hostetler as a free agent, their drafting of QB Billy Joe Hobert of Washington (third round) was a surprise and apparently a farewell message for Todd Marinovich. Like Marinovich, Hobert is gifted but not always dedicated. In the third round, the team that loves

speed took CB James Trapp of Clemson, a world champion sprinter but an inexperienced football player.

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Not bad. Coach Chuck Knox, creator and chief executioner of the grind-it-out offense, already had Cleveland Gary, a tailback who rushed for 1,125 yards last year. So on the first round, when he could not get RB Garrison Hearst, he opted for FB Jerome Bettis of Notre Dame, a 5-11, 248-pound battering Ram who will get a shot at tailback. Bettis likes the idea, saying, "I don't want to be restricted in terms of the things I can do." More running backs? Try Russell White of California (third round), who could develop. TE Troy Drayton of Penn State is big and can go deep. But the Rams got no middle linebacker to stop the run and no pass rusher to replace Kevin Greene.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Puzzling. They needed a running back badly. And even though Mark Clayton had become an outcast, they had three good veteran wide receivers in Mark Duper, a holdover. Mark Ingram signed as a free agent; and Irving Fryar, acquired in a trade. So they did not need a receiver, right? Wrong. In the first round, they took WR/PR O.W. McDuffie of Penn State. They did get a running back in the third round in

Terry Kirby of Virginia, a power runner and good receiver who once was considered a first round prospect. But after that, there was not much help, and little attention was paid to finding an offensive lineman or a linebacker.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Fairly good. There were many needs, especially at defensive back and offensive line, and for speed everywhere. Speed they got. The day before the draft, RB Robert Smith of

continued

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John Williamson

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DRAFT CARD

Ohio State (first round) ran a leg of 400 meters in 45.9 seconds in the Penn Relays. He also has size and intelligence, but he may be moved to receiver rather than back up Terry Allen, who rushed for 1,201 yards last year. WR/PR Qadry Ismail of Syracuse is a younger and bigger version of his brother, Raghib, the Notre Dame Rocket who played in Canada. QB Gino Torretta of Miami (seventh round),

NEW YORK GIANTS

May turn out good. Before the draft, they got the wide-receiver speed they wanted by signing free agents Mike Sherrard and Mark Jackson. They used their first-round pick in the 1992 supplemental draft for QB Dave Brown of Duke, and he would probably have been gone by the time they picked this year. So the draft priorities became pass-rushing defensive ends and linebackers. In the second round, they grabbed DE Mike Strahan of Texas Southern, who made 19 sacks last year for the Division I-AA team. OLB Marcus Buckley of Texas A&M (third round), ILB Tommy Thigpen of North Carolina (fifth round) and OLB Jessie Armstead of Miami (eighth round) are all undersized but quick pass rushers.

NEW YORK JETS

Great job. Before the draft, they helped their defense by signing such free agents as S Ronnie Lott, CB Eric Thomas, and DE Leonard Marshall and helped the offense by trading for



John Williamson

Tom Carter

the Heisman Trophy winner, became the 192nd pick of the draft. Four quarterbacks—and even two kickers and two punters—were taken before him.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

A great job by Bill Parcells, the new coach/GM/draft honcho. The Patriots resisted all bids for the first pick of the draft and took QB Drew Bledsoe of Washington State, who topped the boards of most teams. Bledsoe is 6-5, his arm is a gun, and he has played in a pro-type offense. Parcells insists Bledsoe will not play until he's ready, but the Patriots won only one game last year and may not win many with Scott Zolak or Tommy Hodson or free-agent acquisition Scott Secules at quarterback. With the first of their three second-round picks, they took DE/OLB Chris Slade of Virginia, an excellent though light pass rusher.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Good, if you are satisfied with Wade Wilson at quarterback. Before the draft, the Saints signed Wilson, who had been the Atlanta Falcons' backup, and the Falcons signed Bobby Hebert, the Saints' erstwhile starter, whose salary demands had become too rich for the Saints. The surprising draft-day trade of OLB Pat Swilling to the Detroit Lions gave the Saints a first-round choice they used for OT Willie Roaf of Louisiana Tech, who has 4.82 speed. Then the Saints traded up for a first-round pick that got them the polished and intense Irv Smith of Notre Dame, the best tight end in the draft. LB Reggie Freeman of Florida State (second round) is fast but only 6-1½.



A. Messerschmidt

Dana Stubblefield

QB Boomer Esiason. In the draft, they wanted a running back because Blaine Thomas has not lived up to his promise and Freeman McNeil was retiring. By moving down one pick in the first round, they got a potential feature running back in Johnny Johnson and were still able to select MLB Marvin Jones of Florida State, a hitter with range who should help immediately. DE Coleman Rudolph of Georgia Tech (second round) will improve the pass rush. Sleeper: RB Adrian Murrell of West Virginia (fifth round).

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

A bad draft at a bad time because DE Reggie White, the best defender, escaped via free agency and DE Clyde Simmons, OLB Seth Joyner, and MLB Byron Evans are likely to go low next year. Pre-draft free-agent signings of OLB Tim Harris and DB Erik McMillan helped, but the Eagles still wanted defense in the draft and eyed DE Dan Williams to replace White. Instead, the Denver Broncos traded up two positions ahead of the Eagles and took



John Williamson

Marvin Jones

Williams. Then the Eagles wanted S Patrick Bates, but the Los Angeles Raiders took him on the pick before theirs. Next they wanted OT Ernest Dye, and the Phoenix Cardinals traded up ahead of them and took him. Finally, with their two first-round picks, the Eagles got OG Lester Holmes of Jackson State and DT Leonard Renfro of Colorado. Both will help.

PHOENIX CARDINALS

A sick job. Free agency before the draft brought QB Steve Beuerlein—perhaps a better starting candidate than the often hurt Timm Rosenbach—WR Gary Clark, and S Chuck Cecil. RB Garrison Hearst of Georgia was a first-round gem, assuming his left knee is sound. Coach Joe Bugel anointed him as an instant starter, saying, "Now we can throw the ball 48 times to Gary Clark and give it to this guy 48 times and we'll be all right." A first-round trade-up brought South Carolina OT Ernest Dye (330 pounds) and the second round brought Wake Forest OT Ben Coleman (314). Both are immensely skilled. Bargain: DE Chad Brown, Mississippi (eighth round).

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Fair. Before the draft, they repelled the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' bid for QB Neil O'Donnell and they replaced one free-agent linebacker (Hardy Nickerson) with another (Kevin Greene). CB/PR Deon Deion Figures of Colorado was a decent first-round pick, although more pressing needs might have been addressed with better players. OLB Chad Brown of Colorado, although a little small, can rush the passer. WR Andre Hastings of Georgia (third round) is polished and not a bazer, but he will help. QB Alex Van Pelt of Pittsburgh (eighth round) is a hometown hero who could help in time, but for the Steelers this draft may take time to develop players who can contribute.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Fair. Free agency before the draft stripped them of RB Rod Bernstein, OG Dave Richards, LB Henry Rolling, and CB Tony Blaylock—a healthy collection. OG Joe Milichuk and LB Jerrol Williams were signed, but a passing game was needed to complement a decent running game. The draft provided no instant passing gratification. CB Darnen Gordon of Stanford (first round) moved up fast in the draft rankings, but the Chargers wanted Tom Carter and watched him go five picks ahead of theirs. Then they traded their 1994 first-round choice for the 12th pick of the sec-

ond round of this draft and chose RB Natrone Means of North Carolina (5-10, 255), whom they had rated a first-round value. He's tough but can he handle the weight?

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Disappointing after all the quarterback turmoil that ended with Joe Montana's trade to the Kansas City Chiefs. An aging and aching defense needed help, especially with the free-agency losses of DE Pierce Holt and OLB Tim Harris. The signing of free-agent S Tim McDonald helped. But in the first round of the draft, the 49ers could not get the player they wanted, DE/DT John Cope and, and traded down twice. Finally, with the 26th and 27th picks of the first round, they added DEs Dana Stubblefield of Kansas (6-2, 288) and Todd Kelly of Tennessee (6-3, 260). CB Adrian Hardy of Northwest Louisiana will help with coverage, but holes remain.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Good because of the first two choices. The offense got help from the pre-draft free-agent signings of TE Ferrel Edmunds and WR/PR Kelvin Martin, but it needed help everywhere, especially at quarterback, where Dan McGwire had not shown enough to be a long-term starter. They desperately wanted home-grown QB Drew Bledsoe of Washington State, and when the New England Patriots made him the first choice overall, the Seahawks, with the second choice, settled for QB Rick Mirer of Notre Dame. Mirer is a smart, fiery leader and may play quickly. CB Carlton Gray of UCLA (second round) is savvy and should have been picked earlier.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

A sound draft with many players likely to make good pros. Pre-draft free agency brought LB Hardy Nickerson, S Barney Bussey, and CB Martin Mayhew, but QB Vinny Testaverde escaped and 39-year-old Steve DeBerg became, at least for the time, the quarterback by default. DE Eric Curry of Alabama was a solid first-round choice, a fast pass rusher and hard player. Keith McCants, the Bucs' defensive end and Curry's one-time Alabama teammate, was happy to have Curry because that meant McCants could return to outside linebacker. LB Demetrius D. Bose of Notre Dame (second round) is tough and fast. Lamar Thomas (third round) and Horace Copeland (fourth round) both wide receivers from Miami, will help.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Far, maybe good because it was efficient. They wanted OLB Wayne Simmons, but he was gone. They wanted a cornerback because one starter, Darrell Green, is 33 and the other, Martin Mayhew, left during free agency. On the first round, they got the best cornerback in the draft, Tom Carter of Notre Dame (5'7, 209). They wanted help on the defensive line and could get it from DE Sterling Palmer of Florida State (fourth round). He can rush the passer and should have gone higher. ☐



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The Top '94 Pro Prospects

Watch for these collegians in the NFL next year

by **JIM CARLEY**

Quarterbacks loaded with pro potential appear to be scarce, but 1994 may be a bonanza year for wide receivers and defensive ends, according to scouts and personnel people around the NFL. That's, of course, only the early picture. Plenty can happen before next April's draft, so few NFL scouts want to go on the record with their comments or their picks this far in advance. But we'll take a stab at predicting who tomorrow's draft headliners will be with a mock first-round projection that includes three wide receivers among the first five picks. It also includes three defensive ends among the top nine and a total of nine senior defensive linemen whom the pros are already eyeing.

It definitely should be the year of the wide receiver in college football, and Syracuse's Shelby Hill could end up as the top prize in next year's draft. He has the whole package as far as the scouts are concerned. He runs a consistent 4.4 in the 40-yard dash and is big and strong enough to make catches in traffic. Last season, Hill caught 29 passes for 480 yards while playing in the shadow of teammate Qadry Ismail, the brother of Raghbi (Rocket) Ismail and the second-round pick of the Minnesota Vikings. Many scouts say Hill, who's the same size (6-0, 194) as Ismail, could be even better. "They just didn't go to

him as much because Ismail was the senior," one scout said. "He's just an outstanding all-round performer and I'm sure they'll feature him more this year."

One player who probably won't be featured in his offense is Clemson's Terry Smith (6-1, 200), who's locked in a run-oriented system. Because of that, he caught only 38 passes for 596 yards and three touchdowns last season. After his sophomore season, in which he had 52 catches for 829 yards and six TDs, some pro personnel people were saying that Smith could be a first-round pick, and he has done nothing but continue to improve his stock. Some claim he's the strongest wideout in school history, with a 300-pound power-clean mark and the best vertical jump (39 inches) by a player at his position ever at Clemson. Smith is a 4.4 runner who "can't miss in the pros," one scout said. "He has the size, speed, and strength to be an ideal NFL wide receiver."

Michigan's Derrick Alexander and Florida's Willie Jackson are two more wide receivers the pros covet. Last year, Alexander caught 50 passes, 11 of them for touchdowns, and ran up 740 yards. "He's a big-pay man with soft hands," one scout said. Jackson is a similar player who caught 62 passes for 772 yards and eight touchdowns last season.

Among defensive ends, one player you won't see or hear much about is John Thierry. That's only because Thierry plays at tiny Alcorn State and won't be on national television during the season. But Thierry is "potentially one of the top linebacker/defensive ends in the country," according to one NFC scout.

1994 Mock First Round Draft

1. Marshall Faulk, RB, San Diego St
2. Shelby Hill, WR, Syracuse
3. Derrick Alexander, WR, Michigan
4. John Thierry, DE, Alcorn St
5. Terry Smith, WR, Clemson
6. Bernard Williams, OT, Georgia
7. Willie McGinest, DE, Southern Cal
8. Antonio Langham, CB, Alabama
9. Rusty Medearis, DE, Miami
10. Aaron Taylor, OG, Notre Dame
11. Aaron Glenn, CB, Texas A&M
12. Trev Alberts, LB, Nebraska
13. Bryant Young, DT, Notre Dame
14. Ernie Rhet, RB, Florida
15. Mike Wells, DT, Iowa
16. Brenton Buckner, DT, Clemson
17. Winfred Tubbs, LB, Texas
18. Willie Jackson, WR, Florida
19. Mike Bedosky, OG, Missouri
20. Chris Maumalanga, DT, Kansas
21. Calvin Jones, RB, Nebraska
22. Lou Benfatti, DT, Penn St
23. Stacy Seagars, OG, Clemson
24. Ryan McCoy, LB, Houston
25. Tyrone Drakeford, CB, Virginia Tech
26. Kelvin Knight, FS, Mississippi St
27. Aubrey Beavers, LB, Oklahoma
28. Darren Krein, DE, Miami

Other Potential First-Rounders

Frank Adams, CB, South Carolina
Trumane Bell, WR, Nebraska
Tony Boselli, OT, Southern Cal
Darrell Clapp, OT, Houston
Eric England, C, Texas A&M
Henry Ford, DT, Arkansas
Harrison Houston, WR, Florida
Juan Long, LB, Mississippi St
Craig Novitsky, OT, UCLA
David Palmer, WR, Alabama
Heath Shuler, QB, Tennessee
Paul White, CB, Miami
Ron Woolfork, LB, Colorado

Other High-Round Possibilities

Jason Atkinson, LB, Texas A&M
Rodney Blunt, RB, Clemson
Dwayne Chandler, TE, Kansas
Bert Emanuel, QB, Rice
Jay Fiedler, QB, Dartmouth
Wayne Gandy, OT, Auburn
Eric Gant, FB, Grambling
Marvin Graves, QB, Syracuse
James Gregory, DT, Alabama
Bernardo Harris, LB, North Carolina
Jimmy Klingler, QB, Houston
Kevin Lee, WR, Alabama
Anthony McClanahan, LB, Washington St
Kevin Mitchell, DT, Syracuse
Marty Moore, LB, Kentucky
Kevin Patrick, DE, Miami
Shonte Peoples, SS, Michigan
John Reece, CB, Nebraska
Todd Steussie, OT, California
Charlie Ward, QB, Florida St
Orlando Watters, CB, Arkansas

* Junior



Marshall Faulk

Brian Spurlock



Jimmy Klingler

Dave Back / Sports Photo Masters, Inc.

Thierry is 6-5, 247 and runs a 4.48—receiver-type speed. "He hits like a freight train and runs like the bullet train," one scout said. The former tight end is so fast, he runs on all the relays on the Alcorn State track team and also is a 23-foot long jumper. In addition, he is considered very coachable and smart—he's a pre-med major who's interested in eventually going into medical research. "He needs to mature a little still," one scout admitted, "but he came on strong last year. He has all the tools, and the best thing about him is he can still improve."

A pair of other defensive ends who could go high are Southern Cal's Willie McGinest and Miami's Rusty Medearis. McGinest had 16 sacks last year and a total of 23 tackles for losses. His new coach, John Robinson, says the 6-6, 240-pounder "is one of the dominant players in the country. We'll feature him."

The only question with Medearis is a knee that required surgery last September. Because he missed most of the year, he has received an extra hardship season and might not come out for this draft. Medearis sat out spring practice rehabbing the knee, but if he returns to full speed, it's unlikely he would risk reinjuring it by staying another year.

Medearis's injury allowed both Darren Krein and Kevin Patrick to hog all the playing time last year, and both emerged as pro candidates themselves. It's safe to say the Hurricanes will have the best triumvirate of defensive ends in the country this season. All could end up being drafted high.

The player who could change the quarterback draft picture next spring is Tennessee's

Heath Shuler, if he chooses to come out early. Though he wasn't being written up in their reports, Shuler couldn't be missed by scouts last season when he was a sophomore and threw for 1,712 yards and 10 touchdowns with just four interceptions. Shuler is big (6-3, 212) and has a cannon for an arm. "He could throw a strawberry through the side of a battleship," one AFC scout said. "If he decides to come out, he will be a very high pick."

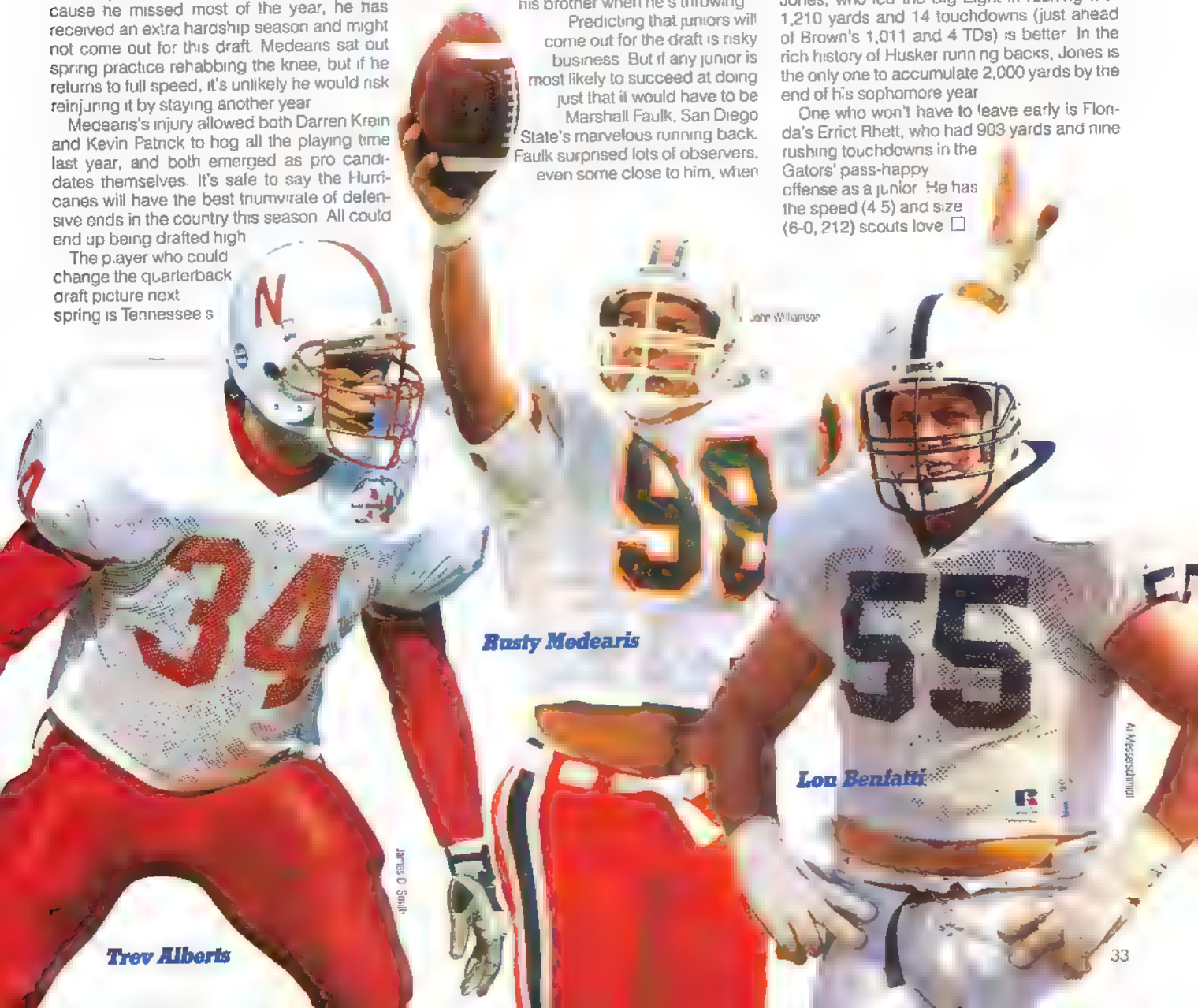
Another junior who might opt to come out is Houston's Jimmy Klingler, the brother of David, a former Cougar and the Cincinnati Bengals' first-round pick in 1992. Jimmy Klingler directed John Jenkins's run-and-shoot and led the nation with 3,818 yards passing and 32 TDs. Though he might not have the same stats in another offense, Klingler is a bona fide pro prospect. "He's not as good an all-round athlete as David was because he doesn't scramble as well," one scout said. "But his arm is almost identical. He looks exactly like his brother when he's throwing."

Predicting that juniors will come out for the draft is risky business. But if any junior is most likely to succeed at doing just that it would have to be Marshall Faulk, San Diego State's marvelous running back. Faulk surprised lots of observers, even some close to him, when

he opted to stay in school this season. After rushing for 163 yards a game and finishing second in the Heisman race, many thought he would bolt for the pros after his sophomore season. He already is only the second back in NCAA history to go over 3,000 yards in his first two seasons (Herschel Walker did it in 1980-81) and only the fifth in history to win back-to-back NCAA rushing titles. Faulk's mother reportedly convinced him to return for his junior year. But if he has another big rushing season and wins the Heisman, it seems unlikely that even his mother would want him to stay in college and risk a career-ending injury. "He's such a big-time player," one AFC scout said. "He could play for a lot of teams right now. He reminds me a little of Barry Sanders."

Another talented junior running back is Nebraska's Calvin Jones. He split time last season with Derek Brown, who came out early for the 1993 draft and was taken by the New Orleans Saints in the fourth round. Scouts say Jones, who led the Big Eight in rushing with 1,210 yards and 14 touchdowns (just ahead of Brown's 1,011 and 4 TDs) is better. In the rich history of Husker running backs, Jones is the only one to accumulate 2,000 yards by the end of his sophomore year.

One who won't have to leave early is Florida's Errict Rhett, who had 903 yards and nine rushing touchdowns in the Gators' pass-happy offense as a junior. He has the speed (4.5) and size (6-0, 212) scouts love. □

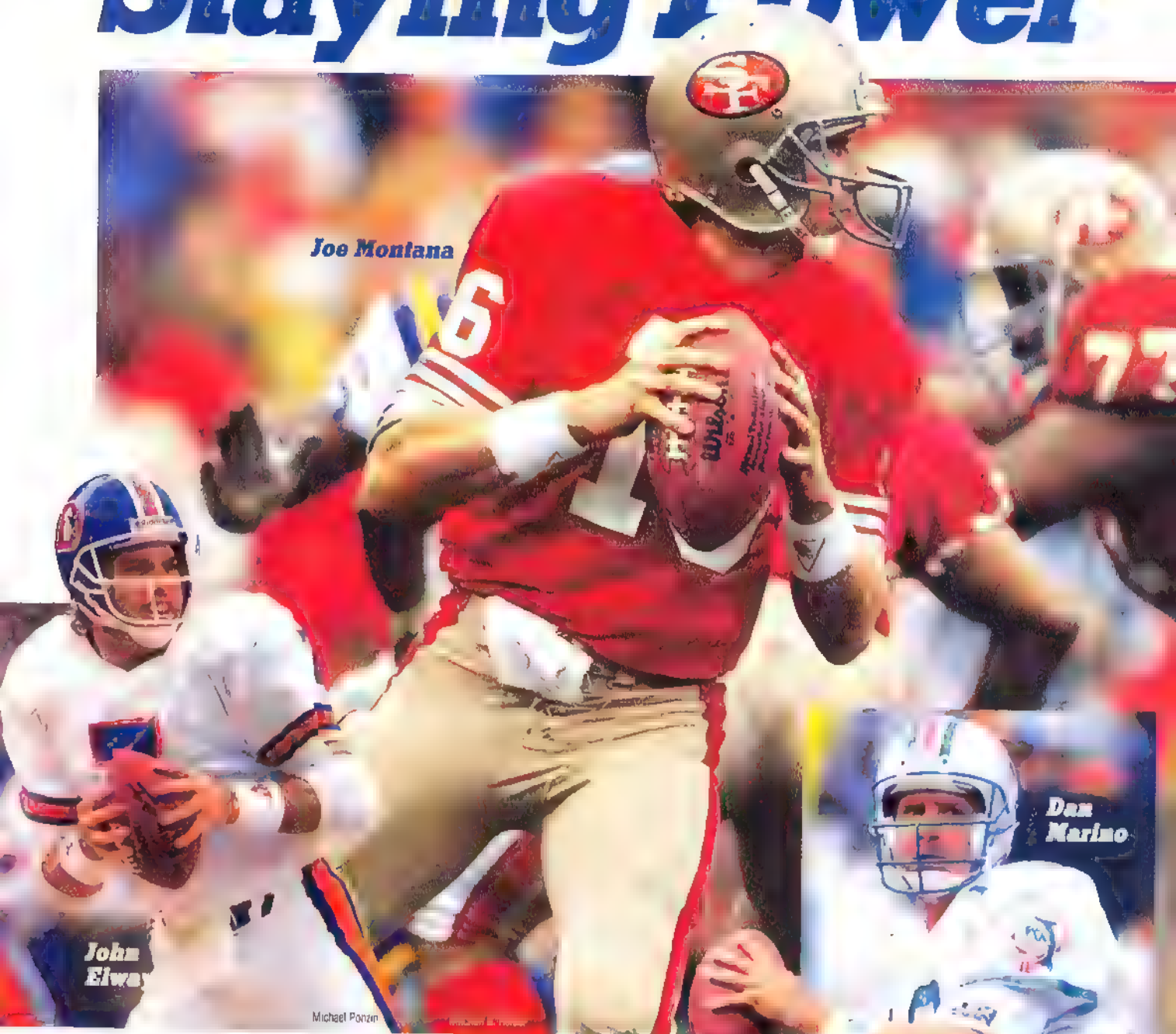


Trev Alberts

Rusty Medearis

Lon Benfatti

Staying Power



Joe Montana

John Elway

Dan Marino

Michael Ponzio

by **LARRY FELSER** BUFFALO NEWS

Joe Montana became the Lazarus of the San Francisco 49ers late last season. After two years of inactivity due to a series of injuries which were expected to end his career, he pollicked for a last opportunity. He got his chance in the final Monday night game of the season and picked apart the Detroit Lions' defense as he once did in his prime. The next day, Montana, 37, made it clear he is ready for more football as a starting quarterback. The Kansas City Chiefs believe. They obtained him prior to the draft in April.

John Elway, a member of the famous quarterback class of 1983, was awarded a new four-year \$20 million contract by Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen even fired coach Dan Reeves, a sometimes antagonist of Elway's. A new offense, including a restructured line, was installed to Elway's specifications.

Phil Simms, shoved firmly toward retirement in New York during the stormy Ray Handley coaching period, was reinstalled as the starter by Reeves, the new Giants' coach. Simms will turn 38 midway through this season.



Joe Stoltz/Aspout

Jim McMahon, his 33-year-old body battered and frequently in disrepair, was signed as a free agent by Minnesota, his fourth team in the last six years. He was immediately installed as the starter on a team whose ambitions were handicapped by the lack of an adequate quarterback last year. "We'll be satisfied if he can start 11 games," admitted Vikings coach Dennis Green.

Jeff Hostetler, a 10-year-veteran shunted aside when Reeves announced Simms would be his starter with the Giants, signed with the Raiders as a free agent. But just to widen his security blanket, Al Davis re-signed 38-year-old Vince Evans, who stunned the Washington Redskins in the final game of the season after he was given a surprise start.

The New York Jets traded for 32-year-old Boomer Esiason, despite his three-year slump in Cincinnati. The Bengals benched him all last season, but the Jets seem willing to detour from their commitment to Browning Nagle

terback. The most interesting collegian is Georgia's Eric Zeier, who is only a junior. Tennessee's Heath Shuler, another junior, and Corey Pullig of Texas A&M, who was a super freshman last year, won't even be considered by the pros until they are much nearer entering the draft. Right now, there isn't much else in the future quarterback pool.

"A college coach's job is to win games, not develop quarterbacks for us," said John Butler, the Buffalo Bills' new general manager. "There are a number of schools using offensive systems where the quarterback has to be on the move, so the coaches play someone with the best athletic ability at the position."

Butler's words can be confirmed by anyone watching TV on Saturday afternoons or evenings in the fall. Observe Alabama, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and a lot of other schools and you will see that their quarterbacks inevitably are players who do everything well but whose passing may be little

The careers of NFL quarterbacks are lasting longer than they once did, partly because there are so few exceptional young replacements.

after his disappointing first year as their starting quarterback.

In Buffalo, Jim Kelly turned 33 two weeks after quarterbacking his third consecutive Super Bowl loser, but owner Ralph Wilson said he was willing to pay Kelly on a level with Elway if it would keep him with the Bills for the foreseeable future.

What's happening here? Is the NFL becoming a jock version of the AARP? Have the aging quarterbacks been turned on to some miracle elixir that preserves youth?

Nothing that mysterious. The fact is that the colleges have stopped producing impact quarterbacks for the pros. The only slam-bang quarterback to come out of college in the last five years is Troy Aikman, who went from UCLA to a bruising apprenticeship program with Dallas but always bore the look of someone who would eventually win a Super Bowl, as he did last season. The only other young NFL quarterbacks even remotely in Aikman's class are Jeff George of Indianapolis and Brett Favre of Green Bay. The future isn't heartening either. The most exciting quarterbacks in the 1993 class of rookies, Drew Bledsoe of Washington State and Rick Mirer of Notre Dame, were admired by the pro scouts, but they also were seen as developmental projects, rubies in the rough who may take several years to polish.

Beyond 1993, the best senior prospect coming into this college season is Glenn Foley of Boston College, whose arm strength is doubted by a number of scouts. Steve Stenstrom of Stanford may or may not be a stronger prospect after another year of tutoring by Bill Walsh. Right now Charlie Ward of Florida State is seen as a great athlete playing quar-

terback. The most interesting collegian is Georgia's Eric Zeier, who is only a junior. Tennessee's Heath Shuler, another junior, and Corey Pullig of Texas A&M, who was a super freshman last year, won't even be considered by the pros until they are much nearer entering the draft. Right now, there isn't much else in the future quarterback pool.

Scouting quarterbacks is a difficult proposition in the first place. It becomes doubly difficult when a scout visits certain schools and has to ask himself "Is it the player, or is it the system." Those schools are the ones which play a traditional passing game and have succeeded with all manner of quarterbacks, from mediocre to great. They include Brigham Young, San Diego State, Illinois, Houston, California, Maryland, Stanford, Washington State, Florida State, Virginia, and Maryland. Gino Torretta, who won the Heisman Trophy last season, is a case in point. The Hurricanes have a history of turning out great quarterbacks (Bernie Kosar, Kelly, Vinny Testaverde, and Steve Walsh). Torretta led Miami to the brink of a national championship last season, but the pros were unimpressed with his arm.

Before Bill Walsh took the coaching job at Stanford, he was a commentator on NBC's telecasts of Notre Dame games. He was effusive in his praise of Mirer, predicting a successful pro future for him. The NFL scouts, whose appraisals are the basis for their bosses spending or not spending millions of dollars, were more conservative. "I saw Mirer three times last season," said one top scout, "and he was a different passer in each game. One game he would deliver the ball from



around his ear. In the next he began the delivery from his waist. In the third he started from his chest. He needs an awful lot of work on his mechanics."

Another reputable scout suggested that 'Lou Holtz's offense was all wrong for Mirer. He's a good athlete and he made the offense work, but he should have gone some place where they would have used him as a pocket passer. He didn't seem to learn much at Notre Dame. From his personal standpoint, he probably should have come into the draft after his junior year."

Bledsoe is the most exciting raw talent since Aikman came out of UCLA, but some of his maneuvers in the passing pocket horrify the pros. "He's all over the place with his passing technique," said one scout who saw him often. "His footwork isn't good either. But he's a great talent and it's just a matter of how long it will take him to put it together."

Relatively speaking, that is a scant number of potential star quarterbacks for a 28-team professional league, almost half of whose

Staying Power



done with a wonder quarterback Stan Humphries, whom the Chargers acquired in a trade with Washington just before the season began, is in the "you can win with him" category, faint praise for quarterbacks who aren't likely to get their defensive, ball-control teams into too much trouble.

Seattle may be the most frustrated of all quarterback-poor teams. The Seahawks finished 2-14 in 1992, but they lost three straight early-season games to New England, Miami and San Diego and another three straight late-season games to Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Denver which they might have won with reasonable quarterbacking. It isn't that the Seahawks haven't tried. In 1988 they traded three draft choices, including a first-rounder, to Phoenix for the rights to Kelly Stouffer, a major flop who was released last spring. In 1991 the Seahawks used their first-round choice on quarterback Dan McGwire, who suffered a hip injury that wiped out his season a year ago and put the team back in the quarterback market during the last draft, in which they took Mirer in the first round.

It's difficult enough for the pros to identify college quarterbacks who might become pro stars even when they remain healthy. Montana, whom many football people consider the greatest quarterback in NFL history, was a third-round pick, the 82d player taken in the 1978 draft. Dan Fouts of San Diego, inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this summer, was another third rounder. Mark Rypien, who quarterbacked the Washington Redskins to victory in Super Bowl XXVI, was drafted in the sixth round. Warren Moon of Houston and Krieg weren't drafted at all.

In the famed draft of '83, there were six quarterbacks taken in the first round. They were, in draft order: John Elway, Todd Blackledge, Tony Eason, Jim Kelly, Ken O'Brien and Dan Marino. So far, Elway and Kelly have

each quarterbacked three Super Bowl teams, Marino and Eason one. But Blackledge was a failure in the pros and quickly drifted out of the NFL. Eason had his one, relatively brief success and then he, too, faded from the league. O'Brien, traded in April to Green Bay, was never much more than a journeyman. In truth, the class of '83 batted 500. It may not sound like much, but it's far better than the average produced by the college classes of the last 10 years. That's why little-known college quarterbacks such as Stoney Case of New Mexico, Steve McNair of Alcorn State, and Michael Anderson of East Carolina will be scouted, checked and crosschecked by the pro talent appraisers long before they leave school. With NFL rosters expanded to 53 players, it will be the rare team that does not have a developmental quarterback on its roster.

The pros would prefer that young quarterbacks be developed before they get to the NFL. The struggles of such promising quarterbacks as Tommy Maddox of Denver and Todd Marinovich of the Raiders, who left UCLA and USC respectively, with two years of eligibility remaining, have left most NFL coaches with a preference for the finished product. The only finishing school besides college football is the dormant World League, but if it resurfaces again at all, it probably won't happen before the spring of 1995—and then only in Europe. The pros' best alternative to the quarterback drought may be increased longevity for its established stars. Montana's desire to extend his career to 15 years or beyond may become routine in the future.

I think we're going to see the most successful quarterbacks play until they're 40, or after," said Butler. "There's no reason why they can't if they take care and keep themselves in good condition. They certainly have the incentive, considering all the money that's out there now."

members are starving for a quarterback of the future—to say nothing of the present. Minnesota is a playoff team which has to settle for a patched-up McMahon to lead it. New Orleans, frustrated by Bobby Hebert's failures in the playoffs, dropped the veteran quarterback and invested its winning team in the hands of 34-year-old Wade Wilson, who bounced from Minnesota to Atlanta in backup roles a year ago. Detroit, a season removed from the championship of the NFC Central, is still tinkering with a quarterback hybrid of Andre Ware, Erik Kramer, and Rodney Peete.

Pittsburgh, which won the AFC Central last year, uses an offense which requires a decent quarterback but not a superstar. Nevertheless, the Steelers were forced to pay Neil O'Donnell more than 10 times what he made a year ago in order to match the offer sheet he signed with Tampa Bay, another team desperate for a quarterback. The Bucs landed in a deeper muddle when they were unsuccessful in signing O'Donnell, too late in trading for Eason, and then watched their incumbent starter, Testaverde, sign with Cleveland to become a caddy for Kosar.

Kansas City, having swung the big deal for Montana, now believes it has the potential to win the AFC. The Chiefs certainly are experienced at quarterback, with journeyman Dave Krieg (35 in October) demoted to backup.

San Diego was considered something of a wonder team last season when it came from last place to win the AFC West, but it wasn't



TOUCHDOWNS

Jim Brown	126
Walter Payton	125
John Riggins	116
Lenny Moore	113
Don Hutson	105
RICE Jerry 49ers	103
Steve Largent	101
Franco Harris	100
ALLEN Marcus, Raiders	98
DICKERSON, Eric, Raiders	96
Jim Taylor	93
Tony Dorsett	91
Bobby Mitchell	91
Leroy Kelly	90
Charley Taylor	90
Don Maynard	88
Lance Alworth	87
ANDERSON, Otis, Giants	86
Paul Warfield	86
Tommy McDonald	85
CLAYTON, Mark, Dolphins	82
Pete Johnson	82
Art Powell	82
BROOKS, James, Browns	82
Harold Carmichael	79
Frank Gifford	79
Fred Biletnikoff	78
Steve Van Buren	77
Earl Campbell	77
Harold Jackson	76
O.J. Simpson	76
Nat Moore	75

POINTS

George Blanda	2,002
Jan Stenerud	1,699
Pat Leahy	1,470
Jim Turner	1,439
Mark Moseley	1,382
Jim Bakken	1,380
LOWERY, Nick, Chiefs	1,367
Fred Cox	1,365
Lou Groza	1,349
BREECH, Jim, Bengals	1,246
Chris Bahr	1,213
BAHR, Matt, Giants	1,142
MURRAY, Eddie, Lions	1,141
Gino Cappelletti	1,130
ANDERSON Gary, Steelers	1,123
Ray Wersching	1,122
ANDERSEN, Morten, Saints	1,085
Don Cockcroft	1,080
Garo Yepremian	1,074
Bruce Gossett	1,031
JOHNSON, Norm, Falcons	998
Sam Baker	977
Rafael Septien	960
Lou Michaels	955
Roy Gerela	903
Bobby Walston	881
Tony Franklin	872
Pete Gogolak	863
Eric Mann	846
Don Hutson	823
Rich Karlis	799
Mike Lansford	789
Paul Hornung	760

Active players in 1992 in CAPS

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Fran Tarkenton	342
Johnny Unitas	290
MARINO, Dan, Dolphins	290
Sonny Jurgensen	255
Dan Fouts	254
John Hadl	244
MONTANA, Joe, Chiefs	244
Len Dawson	239
George Blanda	236
John Brodie	214
Terry Bradshaw	212
Y.A. Tittle	212
KRIEG, Dave, Chiefs	210
Jim Har	209
Roman Gabriel	201
Ken Anderson	197
Joe Ferguson	196
Bobby Layne	196
Norm Snead	196
Ken Stabler	194
Bob Griese	192
Sammy Baugh	187
DeBERG, Steve, Buccaneers	186
SIMMS, Phil, Giants	184
Craig Morton	183
Steve Grogan	182
Ron Jaworski	179
MOON, Warren, Oilers	175
ESIASON, Boomer, Jets	174
Joe Namath	173
Norm Van Brocklin	173

INTERCEPTIONS

Paul Krause	81
Emilen Tunnell	79
Dick Lane	68
Ken Riley	65
Dave Brown	62
Dick LeBeau	62
LOTT, Ronnie, Jets	60
Emmitt Thomas	58
WALLS, Everson, Browns	57
Mel Blount	57
Bobby Boyd	57
Johnny Robinson	57
Lem Barney	56
Pat Fischer	56
Willie Brown	56
Jack Butler	54
Bobby Dillon	52
Jim Patton	52
Mel Renfro	52
Larry Wilson	52
Bobby Bryant	51
Donnie Shell	51

RUSHING YARDAGE

Walter Payton	16,726
DICKERSON, Eric, Raiders	13,168
Tony Dorsett	12,739
Jim Brown	12,312
Franco Harris	12,120
John Riggins	11,352
O.J. Simpson	11,236
ANDERSON, Otis, Giants	10,273
Earl Campbell	9,407
Jim Taylor	8,597
ALLEN, Marcus, Raiders	8,545
Joe Perry	8,378
Gerald Riggs	8,188
Larry Csonka	8,081
McNEIL, Freeman, Jets	8,074
CRAIG Roger Vikings	8,070
BROOKS James Browns	7,962
Mike Pruitt	7,378
Leroy Kelly	7,274
George Rogers	7,176
Curt Warner	6,844
John Henry Johnson	6,803
Chuck Muncie	6,702
Mark van Eeghen	6,651
Lawrence McCutcheon	6,578
Lydell Mitchell	6,534
Floyd Little	6,323

RECEPTIONS

MONK, Art, Redskins	847
Steve Largent	819
Charlie Joiner	750
LOFTON, James, Bills	750
Ozzie Newsome	662
Charley Taylor	649
Don Maynard	633
Raymond Berry	631
RICE, Jerry, 49ers	610
HILL, Drew, Falcons	600
Harold Carmichael	590
Fred Biletnikoff	589
Harold Jackson	579
Lonel Taylor	567
Wes Chandler	559
GREEN, Roy, Eagles	559
Stanley Morgan	557
CLAYTON, Mark, Dolphins	550
CLARK, Gary, Cardinals	549
CRAIG Roger, Vikings	547
J.T. Smith	544
Lance Alworth	542
Kellen Winslow	541
John Stallworth	537
ELLARD, Henry, Rams	532
Bobby Mitchell	521
TOON, Al, Jets	517
Nat Moore	510
Dwight Clark	506
Billy Howton	503
Cliff Branch	501
Tommy McDonald	495
Ahmad Rashad	495
Drew Pearson	489
Don Hutson	488
Jackie Smith	480
Art Powell	479
Boyd Dowler	474
Mickey Shuler	462
Roy Jefferson	451
Haven Moses	448

PASSING YARDAGE

Fran Tarkenton	47,003
Dan Fouts	43,040
Johnny Unitas	40,239
MARINO, Dan, Dolphins	39,402
MONTANA, Joe, Chiefs	35,124
Jim Hart	34,665
John Hadl	33,513
Ken Anderson	32,838
Sonny Jurgensen	32,224
DeBERG, Steve, Buccaneers	32,186
John Brodie	31,548
Norm Snead	30,558
SIMMS, Phil, Giants	30,424
ELWAY, John, Broncos	30,216
MOON, Warren, Oilers	30,200
Joe Ferguson	29,817
Roman Gabriel	29,444
Len Dawson	28,711
Y.A. Tittle	28,339
Ron Jaworski	28,190
Terry Bradshaw	27,989
Ken Stabler	27,938
Craig Morton	27,908
Joe Namath	27,663
George Blanda	26,920
Steve Grogan	26,886
Bobby Layne	26,768
KRIEG, Dave, Chiefs	26,132
ESIASON, Boomer, Jets	25,671
Joe Theismann	25,206
Bob Griese	25,092
Bart Starr	24,718
O'BRIEN, Ken, Packers	24,386
Neil Lomax	22,771
Roger Staubach	22,700
Danny White	21,959



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BY THE NUMBERS

by **ROB GAGNON**

OAKLAND TRIBUNE

The best players ever to wear these numerals

● One of the things that sets football apart from most other sports is the dependency that fans have on the uniform numbers of the players to distinguish them on the playing field. In baseball, a player is fairly easy to recognize by his position in the field, or simply by his physical characteristics. It's difficult to confuse a Fred Patek with a Frank Howard. And with the exception of the catcher, most players have nothing more than a cap or a helmet shielding their faces from the fans. In basketball, it is even simpler. Players wear virtually no extra equipment, making them easy to recognize. No one has ever confused Muggsy Bogues with Manute Bol.

Things are different in football, particularly when fans aren't too familiar with the players involved. Football players wear plenty of gear, including face-obscuring helmets, shoulder pads, and an assortment of other protective equipment. Players have a close association with their jersey numbers because that's how so many of them are recognized. Their numbers are like their trademarks.

Think of No. 5, and the "Golden Boy," Paul Hornung, comes to mind. Mention No. 19, and

it's Johnny Unitas—except in San Diego, where it's Lance Alworth. Try No. 51, and it's the great middle linebacker Dick Butkus. Other numerals bring to mind a number of players, often depending on where fans live. Take No. 12. In New York, it's Joe Namath. In Pittsburgh, Terry Bradshaw. In Miami, Bob Griese. In Dallas, Roger Staubach. In Oakland, Ken Stabler. In San Francisco, John Brodie. In Buffalo, Jim Kelly. You get the idea.

Putting together an all-time pro football team by the numbers is a challenge for any fan. Here's a look at one such all-star team.*

OO JIM OTTO

A Hall of Fame center for the Raiders, Otto started all 308 of Oakland's games during his 15-year career. Double O received additional attention because of his unusual number, which took the first and last letters of his last name to form OO. The Raiders won seven division championships and an American Football League crown during Otto's career. A member of the all-time AFL team.

Runner-up: Ken Burroughs, Oilers

O WILBUR "PETE" HENRY

A charter member of the Hall of Fame, Henry was an offensive and defensive tackle who

ling Canton in 1922-23 and New York in 1927. Among his achievements were two league records, a 50-yard drop-kick field goal in 1922 and a 94-yard punt in 1923.

Runner-up: Obert Logan, Saints

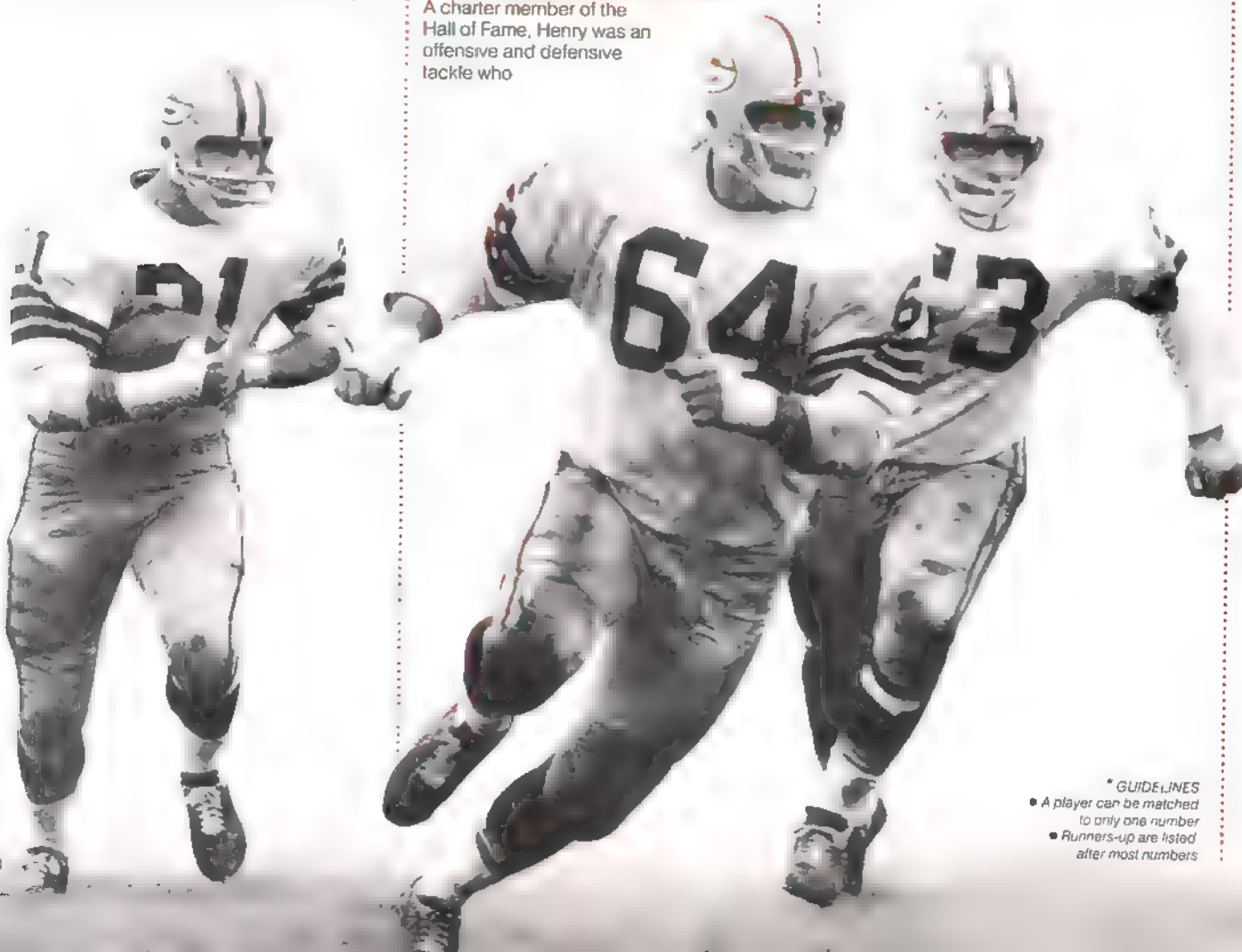
1 WARREN MOON

Among the NFL's career leaders in passing with a 57.8 completion percentage for 30,200 yards and 175 touchdowns in nine seasons with the Oilers, Moon was the AFC Offensive Player of the Year in 1990 when he passed for 4,689 yards and 33 touchdowns.

Runners-up: Jimmy Conzelman & Paddy Driscoll, Cardinals; Curly Lambeau, Packers

2 CHARLEY TRIPPI

One of the most versatile players of the 1940s and '50s, Trippi tripled as a halfback, quarterback, and punter for nine seasons with the Cardinals. He rushed for 3,506 yards (5.1 average) and scored 23 touchdowns, completed eight seasons for the Canton Bulldogs, New York Giants, and Pottsville Maroons. A dominant force on both sides of the ball, he starred on three championship teams, includ-



* GUIDELINES

- A player can be matched to only one number
- Runners-up are listed after most numbers

ed 47.2 percent of his passes for 2,547 yards and 16 TDs, and averaged 40.4 yards per punt. As a rookie, he gained 206 yards and scored two touchdowns to lead the Cardinals over the Eagles in the 1947 NFL championship game.

Runner-up: Walt Kiesling, Steelers

3 BRONKO NAGURSKI

The versatile and talented Nagurski led the Bears to three NFL championships in nine seasons, gaining 2,708 yards and scoring 18 TDs. He threw a pair of touchdown passes in the 1933 NFL title game and ran for a touchdown in the '43 championship.

Runners-up: Tony Canadeo, Packers; Darley Lamonica, Raiders; Jan Stenerud, Chiefs

4 ERNIE NEVERS

A charter member of the Hall of Fame, Nevers was virtually an indestructible player in his five seasons with the Duluth Eskimos and Chicago Cardinals. As a rookie with Duluth, the versatile fullback played in an incredible 29 games—including 28 on the road—leading the Eskimos to a 19-7-3 record. He scored all 59 of the Cardinals' points—including a record 40 against the Bears—in back-to-back victories in 1929. He also played defense, kicked, returned kicks, and coached.

Runner-up: Tuffy Leemans, Giants

5 PAUL HORNUNG

Hornung rushed for 3,711 yards and scored 50 touchdowns and 760 points in nine seasons with the Packers. The 1956 Heisman Trophy winner split time at quarterback and halfback before settling in at halfback. He also was a kicker, led the NFL in scoring three straight seasons (1959-61), was the MVP twice (1960-61), and holds the league single-season scoring record (176 points).

Runner-up: George McAfee, Bears

6 RAY FLAHERTY

Flaherty played nine seasons as an end with the Los Angeles Wildcats, New York Yankees, and New York Giants. A member of the Hall of Fame as a coach, he compiled an 82-41-2 record, winning NFL championships with the Redskins in 1937 and '42 and guiding his teams to six Eastern Division titles in 11 years. Flaherty is given credit for creating the screen pass to keep defenders away from rookie quarterback Sammy Baugh in 1937.

7 BOB WATERFIELD

Waterfield, who passed for 11,849 yards and 98 touchdowns in eight seasons with the Rams, was named the NFL MVP as a rookie in 1945 when he led the league in touchdown passes and guided the Rams to the championship. He repeated as the league leader in TD passes in 1946 and was the NFL's overall passing leader in 1946 and '51.

Runners-up: Dutch Clark, Lions; Boomer Esiason, Jets; John Elway, Broncos; George Halas, Bears; Mel Hein, Giants; Ace Parker, Dodgers; Joe Theismann, Redskins

8 LARRY WILSON

The hard-hitting Wilson was a fixture in the Cardinals' secondary for 13 seasons. He intercepted 52 passes and scored five touchdowns during his career. Wilson was perhaps best known for his unique safety blitzes. A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team.

Runners-up: Ray Guy, Raiders; Archie Manning, Saints

9 SONNY JURGENSEN

One of the premier quarterbacks in pro football history, Jurgensen ranks in the top 10 all-time in passing efficiency (82.6 rating), touchdown passes (255), and passing yardage (32,224). The 18-year veteran led the NFL in completions, yards, and touchdowns with the Eagles in 1961 and was a three-time league passing champion with the Redskins.

10 FRAN TARKENTON

Although initially known because of his ability to scramble with the football, Tarkenton went on to become the NFL's career leader in pass attempts, completions, yards passing (47,003), and touchdowns (342) in 18 seasons with the Vikings and Giants. Tarkenton, the NFL Player of the Year in 1975, when he passed for 2,994 yards and 25 TDs, led the Vikings to three Super Bowls.

Runner-up: Steve Bartkowski, Falcons

11 NORM VAN BROCKLIN

Van Brocklin played 12 seasons with the Rams and Eagles, passing for 23,611 yards and 173 touchdowns. He topped the NFL in passing three times (1950, '52 and '54) and set the single-game passing record with 554 yards against the New York Yanks in 1951. Van Brocklin helped the Eagles win the NFL championship in 1960.

Runners-up: Joe Guyon, Oorang Indians; Link Lyman, Bears; Phil Simms, Giants

12 TERRY BRADSHAW

A two-time Super Bowl MVP, Bradshaw led the Steelers to four Super Bowl championships in a six-year span. The AFC Player of the Year in 1978, he played 14 seasons with the Steelers. In Super Bowl action, Bradshaw completed 58.3 percent of his passes for 932 yards and nine touchdowns. In regular-season games, he completed 51.9 percent for 27,989 yards and 212 TDs.

Runners-up: John Brodie, 49ers; Randall Cunningham, Eagles; Bob Griese, Dolphins; Jim Kelly, Bills; Joe Namath, Jets; Roger Staubach, Cowboys; Ken Stabler, Raiders

13 DAN MARINO

The strong-armed Marino ranks among the all-time leaders in passing efficiency (second), touchdown passes (tied with Johnny Unitas for second with 290), and passing yardage (fourth with 39,502) after 10 seasons with the Dolphins. A four-time AFC passing

champion, he led Miami to the Super Bowl in 1984, when he was named the AFC Offensive Player of the Year after throwing for 5,084 yards and 48 touchdowns, both NFL records.

Runners-up: Frankie Albert, 49ers; Guy Chamberlin, Bulldogs; Don Maynard, Jets; Joe Stydahar & George Trafton, Bears

14 DON HUTSON

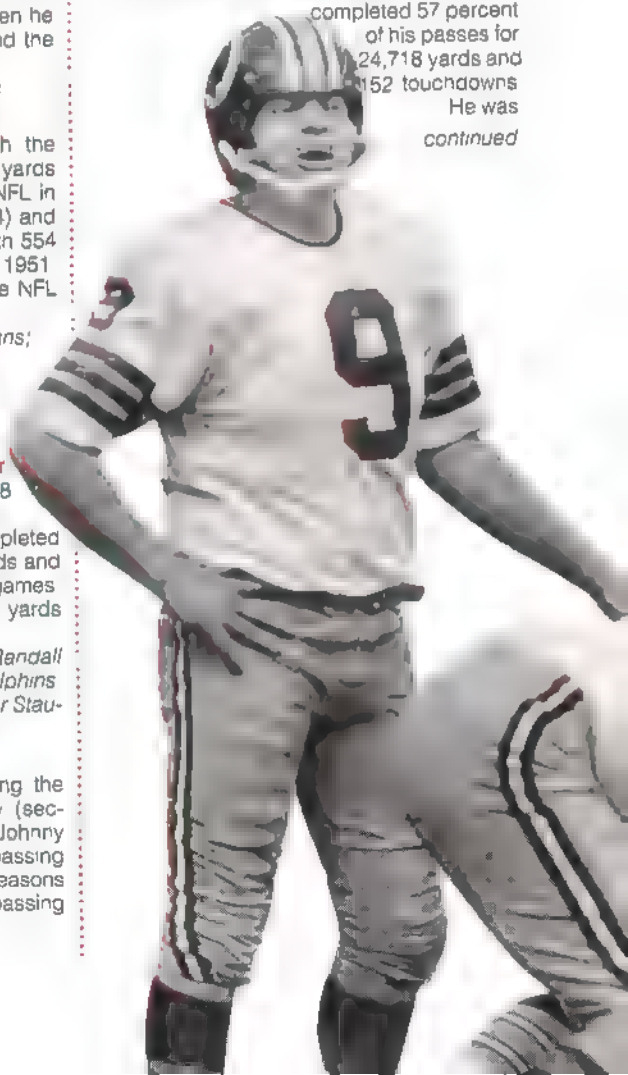
He caught 488 passes for 7,991 yards and 99 touchdowns in 11 seasons with the Packers, topped the NFL in receptions eight times, in touchdown catches seven times, and in scoring five times. A versatile player, Hutson intercepted 24 passes as a defensive back and scored 193 points as a kicker. He is a member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team.

Runners-up: Ken Anderson, Bengals; Dan Fouts, Chargers; Otto Graham, Browns; Eddie LeBaron & Craig Morton, Cowboys; Y.A. Tittle, Giants

15 DART STARR

A two-time Super Bowl MVP, Starr quarterbacked the Packers to back-to-back Super Bowl victories, beating the Chiefs in 1967 and the Raiders in '68. In his 16-year career, he completed 57 percent of his passes for 24,718 yards and 152 touchdowns.

He was
continued



BY THE NUMBERS

the NFL Player of the Year in 1966, when he passed for 2,257 yards and 14 touchdowns and had just three passes intercepted. He led the NFL in passing three times.

Runners-up: Jack Kemp, Bills; Neil Lomax, Cardinals; Steve Van Buren, Eagles

16 JOE MONTANA

He invariably found a way to win, leading the 49ers to four Super Bowl titles in 13 seasons. The Super Bowl MVP in 1982 '85, and '90, he ranks as the most efficient quarterback in NFL history with a 93.4 rating that includes completing 63.7 percent of his passes for 35,124 yards and 244 touchdowns. Montana was the NFC Offensive Player of the Year in 1989, passing for 3,521 yards and 26 TDs.

Runners-up: George Blanda & Jim Plunkett, Raiders; Len Dawson, Chiefs; Frank Gifford, Giants; Ed Healey & George Musso, Bears



17 JIM HART

In 19 seasons, including 18 with the Cardinals, Hart completed 51.1 percent of his passes for 34,665 yards and 209 TDs. Hart led the Cardinals to 10 victories for three straight seasons and a pair of NFC East titles. He was the 1974 NFC Player of the Year.

Runners-up: Red Badgro, Giants; Harold Carmichael, Eagles; Turk Edwards & Billy Kilmer, Redskins; Don Meredith, Cowboys

18 ROMAN GABRIEL

One of the first big quarterbacks to play in the NFL, the 6-4, 220-pound Gabriel completed 52.6 percent of his passes for 29,444 yards and 201 touchdowns in 16 seasons with the Rams and Eagles. He was the NFL's Player of the Year in 1969, when he led the Rams to an 11-1-2 record and threw for 25 touchdowns. He ranks 16th in passing yardage and touchdown passes.

Runners-up: Charlie Joiner, Chargers; Tobin Rote, Lions; Emmitt Thomas, Chiefs; Frank Tripucka, Broncos; Gene Washington, 49ers

19 JOHNNY UNITAS

Considered by many the greatest quarterback of all time, "Johnny U" played 17 seasons with the Colts and one with the Chargers, competing 54.6 percent of his passes for 40,239 yards and 290 TDs. He led the league

in touchdown passes for four consecutive seasons, was the NFL Player of the Year three times, and set a record with scoring passes in 47 straight games. He led the Colts to NFL titles in 1958-59.

Runners-up: Lance Alworth, Chargers; Bernie Kosar, Browns; Mike Michalske, Packers

20 LEN BARNY

The defensive back was one of the top players in the NFL in the 1970s, intercepting 56 passes and returning seven of them for touchdowns, the second-most in league history. Barney, who played 11 seasons with the Lions, ranks 10th in career interceptions. In 1967 he had 10 for 232 yards and three TDs.

Runners-up: Cliff Battles, Redskins; Gino Cappelletti, Patriots; Mike Garrett, Chiefs; Mel Renfro, Cowboys; Barry Sanders, Lions

21 JIM THORPE

One of the game's legendary performers, Thorpe played for seven professional teams from 1915 to 1928. Named to the 50-year all-time NFL team, he led the Canton Bulldogs to league championships in 1916, 17, and '19. An outstanding runner and kicker, Thorpe scored 25 touchdowns in helping the Carlisle Indian School to the national college title. He won the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games.

Runners-up: James Brooks, Bengals; Dan Fortmann, Bears; John Hadl, Chargers

22 BOBBY LAYNE

Layne played for four teams, passing for 26,768 yards and 196 touchdowns in his 15-year career. He guided the Lions to NFL championships in 1952-53. In the 1953 title



game against the Browns, he rallied the Lions from a 16-10 deficit in the final minute, driving 80 yards for a game-winning 33-yard touchdown pass. He led the NFL in completions, yards, and touchdowns in 1952.

Runners-up: Bob Hayes & Emmitt Smith, Cowboys; Paul Krause, Vikings; Buddy Young, Colts

23 DAVE WHITSELL

Among the NFL career leaders in interceptions, Whitsell played 14 seasons with the Bears and Saints. With the Saints in 1967, the cornerback led for the league lead with 10 interceptions, returning them for 178 yards and two touchdowns.



24 WILLIE BROWN

Considered one of the top three cornerbacks in the history of pro football, Brown played 16 seasons, including 12 with the Raiders, and had 54 career interceptions, returning two of them for touchdowns. Brown returned an interception 75 yards for a TD in the Raiders' 31-14 Super Bowl XI victory over the Vikings in 1977. Named to the all-time AFL team.

Runners-up: Otis Anderson, Giants; Jack Christiansen & Byron "Whizzer" White, Lions; Lenny Moore, Colts; Willie Wood, Packers

25 FRED BILETNIKOFF

One of the top possession receivers in NFL history, Biletnikoff ranks 12th all time with 589 catches for 8,974 yards and 76 touchdowns. He led the AFC in receiving twice in his 14 seasons with the Raiders and was the MVP of Super Bowl XI, catching four passes for 79 yards against the Vikings.

Runner-up: Bruiser Kinard, Dodgers

26 HERB ADDERLEY

The cornerback had 48 interceptions, 1,046 return yards, and seven TDs in 12 seasons with the Packers and Cowboys. One of the highlights of his career was a 60-yard interception return for a touchdown for the Packers against the Raiders in Super Bowl II. Adderley played in four Super Bowls and twice led the NFL in interception-return yardage.

27 KEN HOUSTON

Considered by some the greatest strong safety in football history, Houston played 14 seasons with the Oilers and Redskins and had 49 interceptions for 898 yards and an NFL-record nine touchdowns. He led the AFC with nine interceptions for 220 yards and a single-season-record four touchdowns in 1971.

Runner-up: R.C. Owens, 49ers

28 YALE LARY

The versatile Lary played 11 seasons with the Lions. A safety, punter, and punt returner, he had 50 career interceptions, returning two for

touchdowns, and punted 503 times for a 44.3-yard average (No. 3 all-time). A member of three league championship teams

Runners-up: Abner Haynes, Chiefs; Willie Gailmore, Bears

29 ERIC DICKERSON

The second-leading rusher in football history, Dickerson has 13,168 yards and 90 touchdowns in 10 seasons with the Rams, Colts, and Raiders. He had an NFL-record 2,105 yards in 1984, when he was named the NFC Player of the Year for the second of three times.

Runner-up: Harold Jackson, Eagles

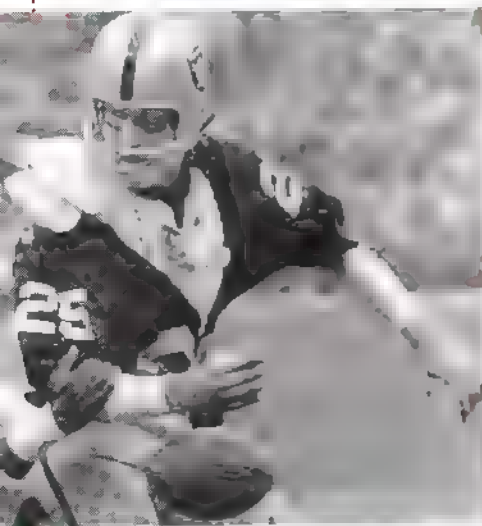
30 OLLIE MATSON

Matson rushed for 5,173 yards and scored 40 touchdowns in 14 seasons with the Cardinals, Rams, Lions, and Eagles. He was a triple threat, catching 222 passes for 3,285 yards and 23 touchdowns and returning a combined 208 kickoffs and punts for 4,341 yards and an NFL-record nine TDs. A gold medalist in the 1952 Olympics, he was traded from the Cardinals to the Rams for nine players.

Runners-up: Dan Reeves, Cowboys; Bill Willis, Browns

31 JIM TAYLOR

The fullback rushed for 8,597 yards and 83 touchdowns in 10 seasons, including nine with the Packers. Taylor rushed for 1,000



or more yards in five consecutive seasons (1960-64) leading the NFL with 1,474 yards in 1962 the only time in nine seasons that Jim Brown did not win the rushing title. He had 85 yards in the Packers' 16-7 victory over the Giants in the 1962 NFL title game.

Runners-up: Donnie Shell, Steelers; William Andrews, Falcons

32 JIM BROWN

The greatest running back in the history of the game, Brown ranks fourth on the all-time rushing list with 12,312 yards. He averaged a record 5.2 yards per carry and scored 126 touchdowns, both NFL records. He led the NFL in rushing eight times in his nine seasons, during which he was named the league's Player of the Year four times. His best statistical season was 1963, when he gained 1,863 yards and averaged 6.4 yards per carry.

Runners-up: Marcus Allen, Raiders; Al Blozis, Giants; Cookie Gilchrist & O.J. Simpson, Bills; Franco Harris, Steelers

33 SAMMY BAUGH

"Slingin' Sammy" completed 56.6 percent of his passes for 21,886 yards and 186 touchdowns in his 16 seasons with the Redskins. He led the NFL in passing six times, including 1947, when he threw for 2,938 yards and 25 TDs, two records that were later broken. Baugh is also the NFL's career punting leader (45.1 average). As a defensive back, he led the league with 11 interceptions in 1943.

Runners-up: Roger Craig, 49ers; Tony Dorsett, Cowboys

34 WALTER PAYTON

The NFL's career rushing leader, Payton gained 16,726 yards, averaged 4.4 per carry, and scored 110 touchdowns in 13 seasons with the Bears. He led the NFC in rushing for five straight seasons (1976-80), with his best year coming in 1977, when he gained 1,842 yards (5.5 per carry) and scored 14 touchdowns. Payton is the all-time leader in all-purpose rushing with 21,803 yards and ranks second with 125 touchdowns.

Runners-up: Earl Campbell, Oilers; Joe Perry, 49ers

35 JOHN HENRY JOHNSON

The 6-2, 225-pound fullback rushed for 6,803 yards and scored 48 touchdowns in 13 seasons with the 49ers, Lions, Steelers, and Oilers. Johnson was the MVP of the Canadian Football League in 1953, his first year in pro football. In his rookie season in the NFL, he gained 681 yards and scored nine touchdowns for the 49ers. With the Steelers, he rushed for more than 1,000 yards twice.

Runners-up: Bill Dudley, Steelers; Calvin Hill, Cowboys; Pete Pihos, Eagles

36 MARION MOTLEY

A punishing Hall of Fame fullback, the 6-2, 238-pound Motley rushed for 4,720 yards (5.7 per carry) and scored 31 touchdowns in nine seasons, including seven with the Browns. His best season came in 1950, when he led the NFL in rushing with 810 yards and scored three touchdowns. With the Browns in the All-America Football Conference in 1948, he had a league-leading 964 yards (6.1 average).

Runner-up: Mack Lee Hill, Chiefs

37 DOAK WALKER

The Hall of Fame halfback played just six seasons with the Lions, but when he retired, he was the third-leading scorer in the game. He caught 152 passes for 2,539 yards, carried the ball 309 times for 1,520 yards, scored 34 touchdowns, and totaled 534 points. Walker led the NFL in scoring twice.

Runners-up: Lester Hayes, Raiders; Jimmy Johnson, 49ers

38 CAL HUBBARD

The versatile Hubbard played tackle, end, and linebacker for the Giants, Packers, and Pittsburgh Pirates for 10 seasons. A charter member of the Hall of Fame in 1963, he was named as a tackle on the 50-year, all-time NFL team. At 6-5 and 250 pounds, Hubbard was pro football's first great mobile big man, excelling as a blocker on running plays.

Runners-up: Arnie Herber, Packers; George Rogers, Saints

39 LARRY CSONKA

The fullback ran for 8,081 yards and scored 64 touchdowns in 11 seasons with the Dolphins and Giants. At his best in the post-

season, the 6-3, 235-pound Csonka rushed for 145 yards and was the MVP in the Dolphins' 24-7 victory over the Vikings in Super Bowl VIII and gained 112 yards in Miami's 14-7 victory over the Redskins in Super Bowl VII.

Runner-up: Hugh McElhenry, 49ers

40 GALE SAYERS

One of the most dynamic halfbacks in the history of the game, Sayers rushed for 4,956 yards and scored 39 touchdowns in an injury-shortened seven-year career with the Bears. He topped the NFL in rushing twice, gaining 1,231 yards in 1966 and 1,032 in '69. As the league's Rookie of the Year in 1965, Sayers scored 22 touchdowns—including a record-tying six in one game—and led the league in scoring with 132 points.

Runners-up: Tom Brookshier, Eagles; "Crazy Legs" Hirsch, Rams; Wayne Millner, Redskins; Joe Morrison, Giants

41 CLARKE HINKLE

Hinkle rushed for 3,860 yards and scored 33 touchdowns in his 10-year career with the Packers. The NFL's leading scorer in 1938 the 5-11, 200-pound fullback was one of the hardest-hitting backs in the history of pro football. Some of Hinkle's most memorable games came in the 1930s against fellow Hall of Famer Bronko Nagurski of the Bears.

Runners-up: Brian Piccolo, Bears; Matt Snell, Jets

42 SID LUCKMAN

Luckman took the Bears to four NFL championships in 12 seasons and passed for 14,683 yards and 137 touchdowns. He was the NFL Player of the Year in 1943, leading the league in passing with 2,194 yards and 28 TDs. Luckman threw a record seven touchdowns in one game and passed for 276 yards and five touchdowns in the 1943 NFL title contest, a 41-21 victory over the Redskins.

Runners-up: Charlie Conerly, Giants; Ronnie Lott, 49ers; Gerald Riggs, Falcons; Charley Taylor, Redskins; Paul Warfield, Browns



43 LARRY BROWN

The hard-running Brown led the NFC in rushing twice, with 1,125 yards in 1970 and 1,216 yards in '72. He was the first Redskin to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season. Considered by many the top running back in the NFL during the early '70s, he led the Redskins to the conference championship and was named the NFC Player of the Year in 1972.

Runners-up: Cliff Harris & Don Perkins, Cowboys; Jim Norton, Oilers

BY THE NUMBERS

44 JOHN RIGGINS

The punishing Riggins rushed for 11,352 yards and scored 104 touchdowns in 14 seasons with the Jets and Redskins. Sixth in career rushing and third in touchdowns, he was the MVP of Super Bowl XVII, carrying the ball 38 times for 166 yards in the Redskins' 27-17 victory over Miami. He holds the single-season record of 24 rushing TDs.

Runners-up: Leroy Kelly, Browns; Floyd Little, Broncos; Pete Retzlaff, Eagles

45 EMLÉN TUNNELL

A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team, Tunnell was a defensive back who played 14 seasons with the Giants and Packers. He ranks second with 79 interceptions, four of which he returned for touchdowns. He returned punts for a record 2,209 yards and led the league in punt-return yardage for three straight seasons in the 1950s.

Runners-up: Ernie Davis, Browns; Archie Griffin, Bengals

46 TODD CHRISTENSEN

A running back who was converted to tight end with the Raiders, Christensen led the NFL in receiving twice, catching 95 passes for 1,153 yards and eight touchdowns in 1986 and 92 passes for 1,247 yards and 12 TDs in '83. The 95 receptions are a record for a tight end, and the 95- and 92-catch seasons rank in the top 10 for single-season receptions.

Runners-up: Dan Abramowicz, Saints; Don Fleming, Browns; Chuck Muncie, Chargers

47 MEL BLOUNT

The cornerback helped the Steelers win four Super Bowl championships in six seasons during his 14-year career. He ranks among the NFL leaders with 57 interceptions, two of which he returned for touchdowns. Blount led the league with 11 interceptions for 121 yards in 1975. The Steelers' all-time leader in interceptions, he was the NFL's Most Valuable Defensive Player in 1975.

Runner-up: Joey Browner, Vikings

48 BEATTIE FEATHERS

One of the top running backs in the early days of the NFL, Feathers played eight seasons with the Bears, Brooklyn Dodgers, and Packers. A member of the NFL team of the '30s, he set a single-season record in 1934 when he averaged 9.94 yards per carry.

49 BOBBY MITCHELL

One of the most versatile offensive players in the NFL, Mitchell spent 11 seasons with the Browns and Redskins and enjoyed success as both a wide receiver and a halfback. He ranks in the top 10 with 14,078 all-purpose yards and in the top 25 with 521 receptions for 7,954 yards and 65 touchdowns.

Runner-up: Tom Landry, Giants

50 MIKE SINGLETARY

The heart of the Bears' defense for 13 seasons, Singletary ranks with the best middle linebackers ever to play the game. The NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1985 and '88, Singletary averaged more than 100 tackles per year during the course of his career.

Runners-up: Ken Strong, Giants; Alex Wojciechowicz, Lions

51 DICK BUTKUS

Considered by many the greatest middle linebacker to play the game, Butkus, who spent his entire nine-year career with the Bears, was known for his intense aggressive play and his ability to pursue the football all over the field. A leader by example, he had 22 interceptions and 25 fumble recoveries and was one of the hardest-hitting tacklers ever. A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team.

52 FRANK GATSKI

A center for the Browns and Lions, Gatski played on eight league championship teams in 12 years, including four each in the AAFC and the NFL. Considered one of the toughest players the sport has seen, Gatski never missed a game in his 20 years of high school, college, and pro ball.

Runner-up: Mike Webster, Steelers

53 LEN FORD

A lineman who played 11 seasons with the Los Angeles Dons, Cleveland Browns, and Green Bay Packers, Ford was part of a Cleveland defense that allowed the fewest points in the league for six seasons. Because of his size (6-5, 260) and skill, he was considered the prototype for today's defensive ends. Ford doubled as an offensive end in his first two seasons, catching 67 passes.

54 JIM RINGO

Ringo played 15 seasons with the Packers and Eagles. Despite being on the small side for a center (6-2, 230), he started for 182 consecutive games, an NFL record at the time. An excellent blocker, Ringo wore No. 51 for most of his career.

Runners-up: Chuck Howley & Randy White, Cowboys; Bob Johnson, Bengals



55 TOM FEARS

He played nine seasons with the Rams and caught 400 passes for 5,397 yards and 38 TDs. He led the NFL in receiving in his first three years, catching a record 212 passes in 1948-50. A member of the NFL team of the '50s, he caught a record 18 passes in a game against the Packers in 1950. Fears wore No. 80 for most of his career.

Runners-up: Lee Roy Jordan, Cowboys; Steve Owen, Giants

56 LAWRENCE TAYLOR

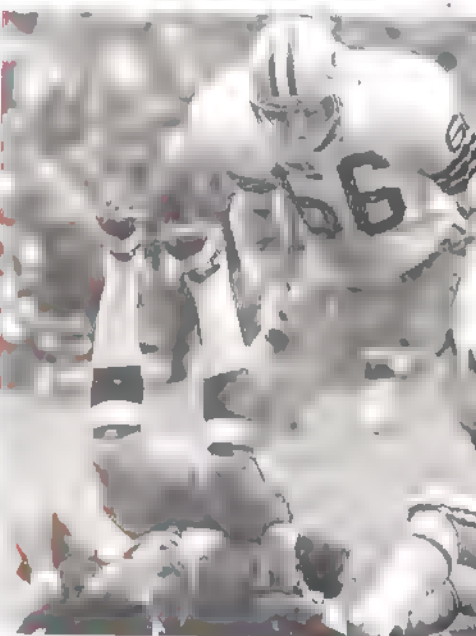
Perhaps the best outside linebacker in the history of the game, Taylor was a Pro Bowl selection in his first 10 seasons in the NFL, an unprecedented accomplishment. The all-time league leader in sacks, he was the NFL's most dominant defensive player during the 1980s in his role as a blitzing and pass-rushing outside linebacker. He was a unanimous selection to the NFL team of the '80s.

Runners-up: Bill Hewitt, Bears; Joe Schmidt, Lions

57 JOHNNY "BLOOD" McNALLY

The Hall of Fame halfback played 15 seasons with the Milwaukee Badgers, Duluth Eskimos, Pottsville Maroons, Green Bay Packers, and Pittsburgh Pirates from 1925-39. A fine all-around player, the 6-0, 185-pound McNally was a good runner and an outstanding receiver. A member of four league championship teams with the Packers, he also went by the name Johnny Blood so that he could play pro and college football at the same time.

Runners-up: Steve Nelson, Patriots; Jeff Van Note, Falcons; Dwight Stephenson, Dolphins



58 JACK LAMBERT

Lambert was the middle linebacker for the four-time Super Bowl champion Steelers in the 1970s, leading the team in tackles for 10 consecutive seasons. With the ability to stop the run and drop back to cover running backs on pass routes, he intercepted 28 passes during his career and was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1976 and '79.

Runner-up: Carl Banks, Giants

59 JACK HAM

Ham played linebacker alongside Lambert and helped the Steelers to four Super Bowl titles. He intercepted 32 passes, returning one for a touchdown, and recovered 19 fumbles. The NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1975, Ham had a pair of interceptions in the AFC championship game in 1974.

Runner-up: Seth Joyner, Eagles

60 CHECK BEDNARIK

Bednarik, who played center and linebacker during his 14-year career with the Eagles, made a memorable tackle on Frank Gifford to put the Giants' halfback on the sidelines for a season and tackled Jim Taylor just shy of the goal line to help the Eagles beat the Packers in the 1960 NFL title game. He played both ways long after it had become unfashionable and had 20 career interceptions.

Runners-up: Tommy Nobis, Falcons; Otis Sistrunk, Raiders

61 BILL GEORGE

An outstanding middle guard and linebacker for 14 years with the Bears, George was instrumental in the creation of the position of middle linebacker.

62 JIM LANGER

After being cut by the Browns in 1970, Langer signed with the Dolphins but didn't become a starter until '72 when he played every down at center during the Dolphins' 17-0 season that included a Super Bowl victory.

63 GENE UPSHAW

Upshaw teamed with fellow Hall of Fame tackle Art Shell on the left side of the Raiders' line for 14 seasons to help give Oakland one of the most feared offenses in football. At 6-5 and 260 pounds, he was perhaps best known as a pulling guard on sweeps. He started all but one game during his 15-year career.

Runners-up: Jay Hilgenberg, Bears; Ernie Holmes, Steelers; Willie Lanier, Chiefs; Lee Roy Selmon, Bucs; Fuzzy Thurston, Packers.

64 JERRY KRAMER

Best known for his block that enabled the Packers to score the winning touchdown against the Cowboys in the 1967 NFL championship game, Kramer was an outstanding guard during his 11-year career. His blocking set the tone on the power sweep, a Packers' trademark during the 1960s. A member of the 50-year all-time team, he kicked three field goals through a cold wind to help beat the Giants in the 1962 title game.

Runners-up: Jack Reynolds, Rams; Dave Wilcox, 49ers.

65 ELVIN BETHEA

One of the top linemen in the AFC during the 1970s, Bethea played 16 seasons with the Oilers. The unheralded end, out of North Carolina A&T, teamed with nose guard Curley Culp and linebacker Robert Brazier to form a superb defensive nucleus in Houston for more than a decade.

Runner-up: Les Bingaman, Lions.

66 RAY NITSCHKE

Nitschke was a driving force at middle linebacker during his 15-year career with the Packers. An intimidating defender who intercepted 25 passes and returned two of them for touchdowns, he helped the Packers win five NFL titles—and the first two Super Bowls. A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team, he was the MVP of the 1962 title game.

Runners-up: Larry Little, Dolphins; "Bulldog" Turner, Bears.

67 ART STILL

A 6-7, 255-pound end, Still was a tower of strength for 12 seasons, including 11 on the Kansas City defensive line.

Runner-up: Bob Kuechenberg, Dolphins.

68 L.C. GREENWOOD

A standout end during the glory years of the Steelers, Greenwood was part of Pittsburgh's vaunted "Steel Curtain" defense during a 13-year career that included four Super Bowl championships in a six-year span.

Runner-up: Russ Grimm, Redskins.

69 TIM KRUMHOLTZ

A key figure on the Bengals' line for 11 seasons, Krumholtz enjoyed one of his best seasons in 1988, when he led Cincinnati in tackles and started in the Pro Bowl. The fiery

continued



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BY THE NUMBERS

Krumrie, who was the spiritual leader of the Bengals' defense, broke his leg against the 49ers early in Super Bowl XXIII, which San Francisco won, 20-16.

70 SAM HUFF

A fierce tackler and a dominating performer during his 13-year career with the Giants and Redskins, Huff was one of the first to play the middle-linebacker position. He had 30 career interceptions and was named to the NFL team of the 50s.

Runners-up: Art Donovan, Colts; Charlie Krueger, 49ers; Jim Marshall, Vikings; Ernie Stautner, Steelers; Al Wistert, Eagles

71 GEORGE CONNOR

An all-pro at three positions (offensive tackle, defensive tackle, and linebacker), Connor played eight seasons with the Bears and was an imposing player on both sides of the line.

Runner-up: Alex Karras, Lions

72 DAN DIERDORF

Dierdorf teamed with Tom Banks and Bob Young to give St. Louis one of the better offensive lines in the NFL during the 1970s.

Runner-up: Ed Jones, Cowboys.

73 JOHN HANNAH

Among the greatest offensive linemen in NFL history, Hannah played 13 seasons for the New England Patriots. A strong and superb blocker, he was the Offensive Lineman of the Year for four consecutive seasons.

Runners-up: Leo Nomellini, 49ers; Arnie Weinmeister, Giants

74 MERLIN OLSEN

Olsen spearheaded the Rams' legendary "Fearsome Foursome" defensive line that included Deacon Jones, Rosey Grier, and Lamar Lundy. Along with Jones, he created stunts that added finesse to defense. Olsen was selected to the Pro Bowl 14 consecutive times during his 15-year career and was the NFL Player of the Year in 1974.

Runners-up: Bob Lilly, Cowboys; Mike McCormack, Browns; Ron Mix, Chargers

75 DEACON JONES

Twice the NFL Defensive Player of the Year, Jones was one of the all-time great ends during his 14 seasons with the Rams, Chargers, and Redskins. Best known as a key member of the "Fearsome Foursome" during his 11 seasons with the Rams, Jones came up with the term "sack." Appropriately, he set an unofficial record with 26 sacks in 1967.

Runners-up: Joe Greene, Steelers; Forrest Gregg, Packers; Howie Long, Raiders

76 LOU GROZA

Groza was an offensive tackle and kicker who played 17 seasons for the Browns. Among the top 10 all-time NFL scoring leaders (1,349 points), "The Toe" led the league in field goals five times and was the NFL Player of the Year in 1954. His biggest kick was the game-winning field goal in the Browns' 30-28 victory over the Rams in the 1950 title game.

Runners-up: Bob Brown, Eagles; Rosey Grier, Rams

77 RED GRANGE

A legendary player in football history, Grange was one of the game's first big stars after joining the Bears in 1925 out of Illinois, where he

was a three-time All-America. His popularity drew crowds of more than 70,000 during his nine seasons with the Bears and the old New York Yankees. The Hall of Fame halfback also played defensive back later in his career.

Runners-up: Lyle Alzado, Broncos; Stan Mauldin, Cardinals; Jim Parker, Colts

78 ART SHELL

An offensive tackle for 14 seasons with the Raiders, he teamed with Gene Upshaw on the left side of the line, providing excellent pass protection and run blocking for Oakland's high-powered offense. Shell is currently the head coach of the Raiders.

Runners-up: Bobby Bell, Chiefs; Stan Jones, Bears; Anthony Munoz, Bengals; Bruce Smith, Bills; Bubba Smith, Colts

79 ROOSEVELT BROWN

After All America honors at Morgan State, Brown became a starter with the Giants and one of the finest offensive tackles in the NFL.

Runners-up: Jim Hunt, Patriots; Harvey Martin, Cowboys; Bob St. Clair, 49ers

80 JERRY RICE

Rice was the NFL Player of the Year in 1987 and the Super Bowl MVP in 1989. He led the NFC in receiving in 1986 (86 catches for 1,570 yards and 15 touchdowns) and '90 (100-1,502-13). For his career, Rice has caught 610 passes for 10,273 yards and a league-record 103 touchdowns for the 49ers.

Runners-up: Steve Largent, Seahawks; James Lofton, Packers; Kellen Winslow, Chargers

81 DICK "NIGHT TRAIN" LANE

Lane ranks third in the NFL with 68 interceptions, which he returned for 1,207 yards and five TDs. Considered by some one of the two greatest cornerbacks ever, he played 14 seasons with the Rams, Cardinals, and Lions. A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team, Lane led the league with the single-season-record 14 interceptions in 1952.

Runners-up: Doug Atkins, Bears; Carl Eller, Vikings; Roy Green, Cardinals; Art Monk, Redskins

82 RAYMOND BERRY

One of the game's clutch receivers, Berry caught 631 passes for 9,275 yards and 68 touchdowns in 13 seasons with the Colts and led the NFL in receiving for three straight years. Berry had 12 receptions for 178 yards and a touchdown in the Colts' classic 23-17 overtime victory over the Giants in 1958.

Runners-up: Ozzie Newsome, Browns; John Stallworth, Steelers

83 TED HENDRICKS

A dominant performer for 15 seasons with the Colts, Packers, and Raiders, the 6-7, 220-pound Hendricks, known as the "Mad Stork," was a strong pass rusher, often pressuring quarterbacks on a blitz. One of the great outside linebackers, he intercepted 26 passes and blocked 25 kicks during his career.

Runners-up: Mark Clayton, Dolphins; John Jefferson, Chargers; George Sauer, Jets

84 ANDY ROBUSTELLI

A strong pass rusher in his 14 seasons with the Rams and Giants, Robustelli was an offensive player in college, but as a rookie with the Rams in 1951, he was switched to defense, where his career blossomed.

Runners-up: Sterling Sharpe, Packers; J.T. Smith, Cardinals

85 NICK BUONICONTI

A member of the all-time AFL team and the NFL team of the '70s, Buoniconti was a stand-out middle linebacker for 15 seasons with the Patriots and Dolphins. He played on back-to-back Super Bowl champions with the Dolphins in 1973-74, had an interception against Washington in Super Bowl VII, and forced a fumble against Minnesota in Super Bowl VII.

Runners-up: Max McGee, Packers; Wesley Walker, Jets; Jack Youngblood, Rams

86 BUCK BUCHANAN

Buchanan was a 6-7, 287-pound tower of strength for the Chiefs. The defensive tackle played in all but one game in his 13-year career, which included a 23-7 victory over the Vikings in Super Bowl IV, a pair of AFL championships, and three AFL West titles.

Runners-up: Boyd Dowler, Packers; Dante Lavelli, Browns; Stanley Morgan, Patriots



87 WILLIE DAVIS

A defensive end, Davis played on six division five league, and two Super Bowl champion teams in 12 seasons, including 10 with the Packers. He played in 162 consecutive games and had 21 career fumble recoveries.

Runners-up: Dave Casper, Raiders; Dwight Clark, 49ers; Rich Jackson, Broncos

88 ALAN PAGE

Page was the first defensive player to be named the NFL Player of the Year (1972). He played 15 seasons with the Vikings and Bears, recording 224 fumble recoveries, 28 blocked kicks and 164 sacks. A mainstay of the "Purple People Eaters," he led the Vikings to four Super Bowls and nine division titles. He was the Lineman of the Year in 1973.

Runners-up: J.V. Cain, Cardinals; John Mackey, Colts; Charlie Sanders, Lions; Lynn Swann, Steelers

89 GINO MARCHETTI

A member of the 50-year, all-time NFL team Marchetti played 14 seasons, including 13 with the Colts. The most feared defensive lineman in the game during his career, he was often double- and triple-teamed. A strong pass rusher, he helped the Colts win a pair of NFL championships.

Runners-up: Wes Chandler, Chargers; Bob Dee, Patriots; Mike Ditka, Bears; Otis Taylor, Chiefs

90 GEORGE WEBSTER

Webster was a giant at outside linebacker for the Oilers. Capable of defending the run—he averaged 10 tackles per game in his best season—or covering backs on pass routes, Webster earned all-pro honors with the Oilers before being traded to the Steelers.

91 KEVIN GREENE

An outside linebacker and defensive end who played nine seasons with the Rams, Greene registered back-to-back 16½-sack totals in 1988-89. He signed as a free agent with the Steelers in 1993.

92 REGGIE WHITE

The only player in NFL history with more sacks than games played, White spent nine seasons with the Eagles and has led the league in sacks the last seven. He set an Eagles' record with 21 sacks in a strike-shortened 12-game season in 1987. The most coveted of the NFL free agents, he signed a blockbuster contract with the Packers in '93.

Runner-up: Michael Dean Perry, Browns

93 JERRY BALL

A strong performer on the Lions' defensive line during his six seasons, Ball is effective stopping the run and as a pass rusher.

94 CHARLES HALEY

One of the more dominating defensive ends in the game today, Haley played seven-plus years with the 49ers before being traded to the Cowboys during the 1992 season. The NFL leader with 16 sacks in 1990, Haley is a pass rusher with excellent upfield speed.

95 RICHARD DENT

An outstanding defensive end and pass rusher, Dent has played 11 seasons for the Bears. The MVP of Super Bowl XX, he holds the NFL career record for postseason sacks with 10½. Dent is also the Bears' all-time leader in sacks and holds their single-season (17½) and single-game (4½) sack records.

96 SEAN JONES

A strong pass rusher, Jones has played for the Raiders and Oilers since joining the NFL out of Northeastern. He enjoyed one of his best seasons with the Oilers in 1988, when he recorded 7½ sacks.

97 CORNELIUS BENNETT

A standout at outside linebacker for seven seasons with the Bills, the AFC Defensive Player of the Year in 1988 (along with teammate Bruce Smith) and 1991 enjoyed one of his best seasons with Buffalo in '91 with 107 tackles, nine sacks, and four forced fumbles.

98 TOM HARMON

A two-time All-America at Michigan who won the Heisman Trophy in 1940, Harmon went on to play three pro football seasons, with the New York Americans in the AFL in 1941 and the Rams in the NFL in 1946-47. A World War II fighter pilot who won the Silver Star and Purple Heart, he went on to become a radio and TV commentator.

99 MARK GASTINEAU

Gastineau was one of the game's most prolific sackers during his 10 seasons with the Jets. Part of the "New York Sack Exchange," he recorded 107½ sacks, including a league-record 22 in 1984, when he was named the AFC Defensive Player of the Year.

Runners-up: Jerome Brown, Eagles; Marshall Goldberg, Cardinals; Dan Hampton, Bears

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Sunday, September 5

Atlanta at Detroit
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Denver at New York Jets
Kansas City at Tampa Bay
L.A. Rams vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Miami at Indianapolis
Minnesota at L.A. Raiders
New England at Buffalo
New York Giants at Chicago
Phoenix at Philadelphia
San Francisco at Pittsburgh
Seattle at San Diego
Houston at New Orleans (N)

Monday, September 6

Dallas at Washington (N)

Sunday, September 12

Buffalo at Dallas
Chicago at Minnesota
Detroit at New England
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Houston
New Orleans at Atlanta
New York Jets at Miami
Philadelphia at Green Bay
Phoenix at Washington
Pittsburgh at L.A. Rams
San Diego at Denver
Tampa Bay at New York Giants
L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, September 13

San Francisco at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, September 19

(Open Dates: AFC East except
New England, NFC Central
except Detroit)
Atlanta at San Francisco
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Cleveland at L.A. Raiders
Detroit at New Orleans
Houston at San Diego
L.A. Rams at New York Giants
Seattle at New England
Washington at Philadelphia
Dallas at Phoenix (N)

Monday, September 20

Denver at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, September 26

(Open Dates: AFC West
except Seattle, NFC
East except Phoenix)
Cleveland at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Houston
L.A. Rams at Buffalo
Miami at Buffalo
Phoenix at Detroit
San Francisco at New Orleans
Seattle at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at Chicago
New England at New York Jets (N)

Monday, September 27

Pittsburgh at Atlanta (N)

Sunday, October 3

(Open Dates: AFC Central,
New England, Phoenix)
Atlanta at Chicago
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Dallas
Indianapolis at Denver
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City
Minnesota at San Francisco
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Philadelphia at New York Jets
San Diego at Seattle
New York Giants at Buffalo (N)

Monday, October 4

Washington at Miami (N)

Sunday, October 10

(Open Dates: NFC West,
Detroit, Seattle)
Chicago at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Kansas City
Dallas at Indianapolis
Miami at Cleveland
New England at Phoenix
New York Giants at Washington
New York Jets at L.A. Raiders
San Diego at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Denver at Green Bay (N)

Monday, October 11

Houston at Buffalo (N)

Thursday, October 14

(Open Dates: AFC East except
New England, NFC Central
except Detroit)
L.A. Rams at Atlanta (N)

Sunday, October 17

Cleveland at Cincinnati
Houston at New England
Kansas City at San Diego
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at New York Giants
San Francisco at Dallas
Seattle at Detroit
Washington at Phoenix

Monday, October 18

L.A. Raiders at Denver (N)

Sunday, October 24

(Open Dates: AFC West
except Seattle, NFC East
except Phoenix)
Atlanta at New Orleans
Buffalo at New York Jets
Cincinnati at Houston
Detroit at L.A. Rams
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
New England at Seattle
Phoenix at San Francisco
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Miami (N)

Monday, October 25

Minnesota at Chicago (N)

Sunday, October 31

(Open Dates: AFC Central)
Chicago at Green Bay
Dallas at Philadelphia
Kansas City at Miami
L.A. Rams at San Francisco
New England at Indianapolis
New Orleans at Phoenix
New York Jets at New York Giants
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
Seattle at Denver
Tampa Bay at Atlanta
Detroit at Minnesota (N)

Monday, November 1

Washington at Buffalo (N)

Sunday, November 7

(Open Dates: NFC West)
Buffalo at New England
Denver at Cleveland
L.A. Raiders at Chicago
Miami at New York Jets
New York Giants at Dallas
Philadelphia at Phoenix
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
San Diego at Minnesota
Seattle at Houston
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at Washington (N)

Monday, November 8

Green Bay at Kansas City (N)

Sunday, November 14

(Open Dates: Detroit
New England,
Atlanta at L.A. Rams
Cleveland at Seattle
Green Bay at New Orleans
Houston at Cincinnati
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
Miami at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Denver
New York Jets at Indianapolis
Phoenix at Dallas
San Francisco at Tampa Bay
Washington at New York Giants
Chicago at San Diego (N)

Monday, November 15

Buffalo at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, November 21

(Open Dates: Phoenix Seattle)
Chicago at Kansas City
Cincinnati at New York Jets
Dallas at Atlanta
Detroit vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
Houston at Cleveland
Indianapolis at Buffalo
L.A. Raiders at San Diego
New England at Miami
New York Giants at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Denver
Washington at L.A. Rams
Minnesota at Tampa Bay (N)

Monday, November 22

New Orleans at San Francisco (N)

Thursday, November 25

Chicago at Detroit
Miami at Dallas

Sunday, November 28

Buffalo at Kansas City
Cleveland at Atlanta
Denver at Seattle
L.A. Raiders at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Minnesota
New York Jets at New England
Philadelphia at Washington
Phoenix at New York Giants
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
Pittsburgh at Houston (N)

Monday, November 29

San Diego at Indianapolis (N)

Sunday, December 5

Atlanta at Houston
Denver at San Diego
Green Bay at Chicago
Indianapolis at New York Jets
Kansas City at Seattle
L.A. Raiders at Buffalo
L.A. Rams at Phoenix
Minnesota at Detroit
New England at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at Cleveland
New York Giants at Miami
Washington at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at San Francisco (N)

Monday, December 6

Philadelphia at Dallas (N)

Saturday, December 11

New York Jets at Washington
San Francisco at Atlanta

Sunday, December 12

Buffalo at Philadelphia
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at New England
Cleveland at Houston
Dallas at Minnesota
Detroit at Phoenix
Indianapolis at New York Giants
Kansas City at Denver
L.A. Rams at New Orleans
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at San Diego (N)

Monday, December 13

Pittsburgh at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 18

Dallas at New York Jets
Denver at Chicago

Sunday, December 19

Atlanta at Washington
Buffalo at Miami
Houston at Pittsburgh
L.A. Rams at Cincinnati
Minnesota vs. Green Bay (Milw.)
New England at Cleveland
Phoenix at Seattle
San Diego at Kansas City
San Francisco at Detroit
Tampa Bay at L.A. Raiders
Philadelphia at Indianapolis (N)

Monday, December 20

New York Giants at New Orleans (N)

Saturday, December 25

Houston at San Francisco

Sunday, December 26

Atlanta at Cincinnati
Cleveland at L.A. Rams
Detroit at Chicago
Indianapolis at New England
L.A. Raiders at Green Bay
New Orleans at Philadelphia
New York Giants at Phoenix
New York Jets at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Seattle
Tampa Bay at Denver
Washington at Dallas
Kansas City at Minnesota (N)

Monday, December 27

Miami at San Diego (N)

Friday, December 31

Minnesota at Washington

Sunday, January 2

Buffalo at Indianapolis
Chicago at L.A. Rams
Cincinnati at New Orleans
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Dallas at New York Giants
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Detroit
Miami at New England
Phoenix at Atlanta
San Diego at Tampa Bay
Seattle at Kansas City
New York Jets at Houston (N)

Monday, January 3

Philadelphia at San Francisco (N)

Saturday, January 8

Sunday, January 9

NFC and AFC Wild Card Games

Saturday, January 15

Sunday, January 16

Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 23

NFC and AFC Championship Games

Sunday, January 30

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HALL OF FAME

by JIM O'BRIEN

The images persist: the burly Larry Little leading the blocking on an end sweep, the bearded Dan Fouts firing a football 60 to 70 yards on the fly, the bright-eyed Walter Payton pile-driving those formidable legs off tackle and then high-stepping his way past lunging linebackers, the steely-eyed Chuck Noll and Bill Walsh watching from the sidelines, seldom smiling, usually looking annoyed. Each made his mark in the National Football League, and on July 31 they will be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as the class of 1993.

No one ever rushed for more yards in the NFL than Payton of the Chicago Bears. Not many could block better or get out in front of his backs as well as Little, the husky guard of the Miami Dolphins. Few threw more passes for more yardage and touchdowns than Fouts of the San Diego Chargers. Keep this in mind, however: In his pro debut, Payton carried the ball eight times for no gain. Little was not drafted by any NFL team and signed as a free agent with the San Diego Chargers, who later dealt him to the Dolphins. Fouts's first pass fell incomplete.

Noll won his first game as coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1969 and then lost the next

He came out of Columbia, MS, and a predominantly black college, Jackson State, and he turned the NFL on its collective ear. "Sweetness," as he was affectionately called, wore a white bandana and a Bears uniform with pride, and ran over and past people unlike any back before him. He was a high-strung 5-10, 202-pound package of dynamite. Nobody did it all better than Payton. In 13 seasons with the Bears (1975-1987), he rushed 3,838 times for 16,726 yards and 110 touchdowns—all NFL records. He caught 492 passes for 4,538 yards and 15 more TDs. Altogether, he scored 125 touchdowns, second-most ever, and ran up a record 21,803 total yards. Yet one of his coaches, Mike Ditka, loved him because of his blocking ability. He could tackle, too, and might have made a terrific defensive back.

"He is a complete football player," said Jim Finks, the former general manager of the Bears, who drafted Payton as the team's first pick in 1975. "He is better than Jim Brown. He is better than O.J. Simpson." Of course, in Chicago the high standard had been set by Gale Sayers, but Payton was equal to the challenge. He played in nine Pro Bowls, was

could have played that day if Jack Pardee had let him. A power runner more than a break-away speedster, Payton punished tacklers before they could hurt him. "My coach at Jackson State, Bob Hill, always said that if you are going to die, you should die hard, never die easily," Payton was fond of saying.

He was a fun guy who loved to play pranks on his teammates, loved to show his skills on the dance floor and with musical instruments.

Life is so short," he said, "you better enjoy it while you can." His records and achievements mean a lot to him. "My father always told me never to settle for second-best," he said, "that either you try to do your best or don't try at all."

DAN FOUTS

No one could distract Dan Fouts from throwing a football. He was 6-3, 210 pounds, but he played the game as though he were much bigger. You couldn't flush Fouts out of



DAN FOUTS

the pocket no matter how fierce the pass rush. The last thing he wanted to do was run. So Fouts took more than his share of hard knocks. But he always got back up to throw the ball again. He wore a beard, perhaps to soften the blows, but he stood out from the pack for more than his facial hair. His arm wasn't thought to be as strong, say, as Terry Bradshaw's, but few quarterbacks cranked it up more often than Fouts. No team had as sophisticated a passing offense as the Chargers, especially under Don "A.R. Coryell."

"To be associated with that style of play is what I am proudest about," said Fouts when he first learned that he had been elected to the Hall of Fame. "We were on the cutting edge of offensive football, in the passing game particularly. We knew we were capable of scoring 30-40 points—and often we did."

Fouts threw for 43,040 yards, a total exceeded in the NFL only by Fran Tarkenton's 47,003, and led the league in passing yards four times, topped only by Sonny Jurgensen, who did it five times. Some of Fouts's numbers are as numbing as some of the hits he took from defensive linemen. He threw 254 touchdown passes, had six games of 400-plus passing yards, 51 of 300-plus, six Pro Bowl selections, five all-pro honors, one league MVP award, two AFC Player of the Year titles,



WALTER PAYTON

13. But when he retired after the 1991 season, shortly before his 60th birthday, he had won 209 games (No. 6 in NFL history), including 16 in the postseason, and directed the Steelers to four Super Bowl titles. Walsh went 8-24 in his first two seasons as coach of the San Francisco 49ers, but 94-39-1 in the next eight years with three Super Bowl champions. Neither of those franchises had ever won any titles before that.

the NFL Player of the Year twice (1977 and 85), and set a single-game record with 275 yards against Minnesota in 1977.

Teammate Don Hampton loved him because of his enthusiasm. Payton trained tirelessly by weightlifting and jogging during every offseason and showed up at training camp in peak physical condition. He missed only one game in his rookie season during his first 12 years in the NFL, and Payton said he

and more than a dozen San Diego records

Walsh said there are some similarities between Fouts and Joe Montana of the 49ers, another of his protégés. "Dan depends heavily on his mind," said Walsh, "on his tremendous inner strength, nerve, confidence, and grit—if you want to call it that. He can stand under tremendous pressure and throw an accurate pass. Joe will move a lot more. Joe depends on avoiding people. Dan depends on planting his feet, standing there and just living with the pressure."

Coryell was concerned about the way Fouts would look danger in the eye and ignore it. "The thing that worries me the most," Coryell once said, "is that Danny has too much toughness for a man who's not as big as the guys who hit him."

LARRY LITTLE

One of Larry Little's virtues as an offensive guard was his patience. It is something a lineman must possess as much as size and strength and pertinacity. It also served him well after his retirement in 1980. "I've been waiting a long time for this," Little said upon learning of his selection to the Hall of Fame, "and when it finally came, I was...I guess you could say, ecstatic. I just started laughing." It was nice for Little to have the last laugh. A guy with less heart might have gotten frustrated a lot earlier and never hung in there to have the opportunity to enjoy the success he had with Don Shula's great Miami teams of the '70s.

He was a hometown success story, having grown up within walking distance of the Orange Bowl, where he would eventually star in the NFL. Little was an unspectacular player in high school, so when no big-time college scouts came knocking at his door, he went to

We battled several times and I came away from each game with more respect for him than ever. Whatever he did, I just couldn't even shake him."

Little is the fifth Dolphin elected to the Hall, following Larry Csonka (1987), Paul Warfield (1983), center Jim Langer (1987), and Bob Griese (1990).

CHUCK NOLL

He thought of himself as a teacher, and one of the things that attracted him to coaching, he said, "was the chance to help somebody get better." Noll was never happier than when he was working one-on-one with a prospect, teaching him with his hands-on method.

For almost 40 years, the Steelers never won any kind of title until Dan Rooney, the oldest of owner Art Rooney's five sons, took a chance on a 37-year-old assistant on Don Shula's staff with the Baltimore Colts. Art Rooney said he knew Noll had the right stuff after the Steelers went 1-13 in Noll's first year. "He lost all those games, but he never lost the team."

The Steelers drafted deftly, and had incredible luck along the way back in the '70s. Noll picked his personnel carefully and stayed with them, assembling a team that twice won back-to-back Super Bowls with basically the same players but with different styles.

LARRY LITTLE



CHUCK NOLL



"He was very stern, very strict," said Andy Russell, one of the few holdovers from the poor team that Noll inherited. "He was very realistic about what the players could or could not do. He didn't wear us out at practice. Sundays were our hard days. To that extent, he was a players' coach."

Noll came from Cleveland, and had a distinguished career as a guard and linebacker for Paul Brown's string of title teams. He learned what it took to be a winner in the NFL. "You learn something from everyone," he said. He never learned to smile a lot, or to be loquacious with the press, but he was fair, and he could be good company away from the football field. "Basically, I'm a private person," he said. "My thing is preparation and teaching and that's not a good story. I'm not a one-liner kind of guy. I'm not a comedian."

BILL WALSH

He was different from Noll in many ways. He was more comfortable in the limelight, or as a TV analyst, and never blushed when somebody labeled him "a genius," as coaches go. But he was just as determined and focused in his mission to produce winners as any coach, and he still operates in that manner in a second engagement as the head coach at Stanford University.

Walsh was 10 years older than Noll at 47, when he got his first head coaching assignment in the NFL. He had distinguished himself as an assistant with the Oakland Raiders, Cincinnati Bengals, and the Chargers before getting a shot. He was bypassed several times, which prompted him to leave the NFL to become coach at Stanford in 1977. Taking over a 49ers team that was 2-14 in 1978, he led them to their first NFL championship just three years later and to Super Bowl victories again in 1985 and '89. With a 102-63-1 record in 10 years, Walsh won more games than any other 49ers coach. He took pride in his ability to recognize talent.

"I didn't have to see Joe Montana play 10 games at Notre Dame in 1978 to know that I wanted him," he said. "The argument against Joe was that he was inconsistent. Maybe it was my impetuous ego, but I felt if I saw him succeed once, he could do it again."

Walsh continually changed his lineup and had only seven team members who played in all three Super Bowl victories, whereas the Steelers had 21 of the same players on all four of their Super Bowl champions. So Walsh won with three different teams.

"You start by knowing that most of what you try to do will fail," said Walsh. "A team just doesn't have a big gainer on every play. You have to be seasoned enough to withstand frustration, but when an offensive opportunity presents itself, often without warning, you must be ready to lead. New plays just don't drop from heaven. They derive from a coach's knowledge of the game and an examination of all the approaches that, considering your personnel and opposition, may be available." □

Jim O'Brien has written two books about the Pittsburgh Steelers (Doing It Right and Whatever It Takes). He has a new book out on baseball (Maz and the '60 Bucs).

tiny Bethune-Cookman in nearby Daytona Beach. When he graduated, he was not drafted by any NFL team but signed for \$750 with the Chargers. A year later he was traded to the Dolphins, which turned things around for him in a big way. He was a six-time all-pro. He was named the AFC's outstanding offensive lineman in 1970, '71, and '72.

Steelers Hall of Fame defensive tackle Joe Greene, now an assistant to Shula with the Dolphins, said, "Every time we played Miami, it seemed that Little was always in front of me



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NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

by **DON PIERSON**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In the NFC, it's what's up front that counts

● The NFC lost seven Super Bowls to the AFC this offseason. Four belonged to Joe Montana, two to Bill Parcells, and one to Jeff Hostetler. The coach and two quarterbacks jumped ship and became part of the 'brain drain' NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue hopes will help restore some semblance of balance to his lopsided league. The NFC has won nine Super Bowls in a row and the Dallas Cowboys have more going for them than most champions seeking a repeat.

With Montana in Kansas City, Parcells in New England, and Hostetler in Los Angeles, the NFC has infiltrated the AFC coast-to-coast. Add defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan in Houston and the rise of the San Diego Chargers under former Washington general manager Bobby Beathard and Tagliabue

NFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

- 1 Dallas Cowboys
- 2 Washington Redskins
- 3 New York Giants
- 4 Phoenix Cardinals
- 5 Philadelphia Eagles

WEST

- 1 San Francisco 49ers
- 2 New Orleans Saints
- 3 Atlanta Falcons
- 4 Los Angeles Rams

CENTRAL

- 1 Green Bay Packers
- 2 Minnesota Vikings
- 3 Chicago Bears
- 4 Detroit Lions
- 5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers

ly. Clearly, this is more than coincidence. The consensus of Pro Bowl players following the Cowboys' crushing 52-17 victory over Buffalo was that the NFC is, indeed, a more physical conference, better prepared for the playoffs against bigger, stronger defenses. This is a description of NFC East teams, where defenses as formidable as the Philadelphia Eagles' end up nothing more than also-rans.

"I felt Buffalo was good enough to win any of the last three years, but it isn't working out



thought that was pretty physical. We don't feel we have to apologize."

Explanations are what is required, not apologies. Mike Shanahan, offensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers, was offensive coordinator of the Denver Broncos in two Super Bowl losses and later head coach of the Los Angeles Raiders. In studying both conferences, Shanahan came to a conclusion after his first season in San Francisco: "The front seven is much stronger throughout the NFC," he said. "As the saying goes, you win it up front. There is a consistency of dominating players on the front seven." Shanahan is talking defense, where 4-3 and 3-4 schemes have melded in recent years to indecipherable alignments now described simply as front sevens. Whether they include four linebackers or four down linemen is often hard to determine. Many players, such as "linebackers" Tim Harris and Charles Haley, are hybrids.

Blame Lawrence Taylor. The great linebacker of the New York Giants is back for another year, defying the odds of recovering fully from Achilles tendon surgery. If he can no longer torment offenses, Taylor will serve as a symbol of NFC dominance. In fact, the dominance can be traced to the year Taylor entered the league, 1981. "That's where it started. All the good guys went to the NFC," said linebacker Rickey Jackson of New Or-

says the moguls at NBC are happy their conference can compete. Subtract four more NFC Super Bowls—three from retired Washington Redskins coach Joe Gibbs and one from fired Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka—and there's all the more reason for AFC hope.

Tell it to Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson, who entered last season with the youngest team in the league and came out with an impressive Super Bowl victory. It was the third straight from a different NFC East team and signaled time to take the dominance serious-

that way," said Miami quarterback Dan Marino. "There are more dominating teams in the NFC, there's no doubt."

Marino's coach, Don Shula, disagrees that the NFC is more physical. He was the first NFL coach to lose to the AFL in a Super Bowl when his Baltimore Colts were upset by the New York Jets in 1969. Since then, he has won two Super Bowls with the Dolphins. "You can't generalize," Shula said. "All of us like to think we play physical. Did you see us against San Diego in the AFC divisional playoffs? We

Jeans Jackson was one of them in the great "linebacker draft" of 1981. It also included Hugh Green, E. J. Junior, and Mike Singletary—all to the NFC. Safety Ronnie Lott went to the NFC in that draft as well and became as important to San Francisco's success as Montana. "The NFC has more physical players, the AFC has more finesse teams," Jackson said, echoing a stereotype that is growing from theory into fact.

"By playing in a more physical conference, you play more physical by the time you get to the championship," said Reggie White, who narrowed his choices as a free agent to three NFC teams before selecting Green Bay. "The NFC has big offensive lines. In the AFC, not every offensive line is as big and physical as some of the NFC lines. But maybe free agency will give the AFC an opportunity to compete."

The same year Taylor and the linebackers came into the NFC, the 49ers traded for Fred Dean from the San Diego Chargers. Dean and Taylor became front-seven players so versatile and dominating that offenses had to account and adjust. The two no longer fit the traditional roles of down linemen or pass rushers. Essentially, they were terrorists, lining up in different places, coming at different times, surprising offenses from all angles. They gave rise to a cardinal rule of offensive thinking: You have to know where they line up.

Two things happened: Rivals tried to find more Taylors and Deans and rivals beefed up to protect themselves from the Taylors and

Deans. This happened first in the NFC East. Gibbs, who arrived to coach Washington the same year Taylor was a rookie, immediately developed the "Hogs" offensive line to provide maximum protection for his quarterbacks. In San Francisco, Bill Walsh pulled guards to block linebackers such as Taylor, making sure he never was isolated on an out-manned tight end or running back.

It is interesting to note that no NFC team has won a Super Bowl without employing conventional offenses including tight ends and blocking fullbacks or H-backs. The 49ers and Redskins won with great, but not fancy, passing games. No run-and-shoot stuff here, just block and tackle. Was there a simpler offense in football than the Cowboys' of 1992?

In 1983 and 1984, the Bears drafted Richard Dent and Wilber Marshall and by 1985 defensive coordinator Ryan's blitzing, swarming, gambling "46" defense dominated the league like few before or since. Ryan said he learned football's most important lesson from former Jets coach Weeb Ewbank: Protect the passer at all costs. Ryan converted the axiom to his own devices as a defensive coach: Get the passer at all costs.

In 1986, the Eagles hired Ryan and added Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons to their 1985 acquisition of White. The escalation of NFC front sevens was on. The Redskins hijacked Marshall through free agency. The Giants drafted a bigger, stronger offensive line. The 49ers turned Haley loose. The Minnesota Vi-

kings made a run with Chris Doleman and Keith Millard and Henry Thomas. The New Orleans Saints fielded one of the all-time great groups of linebackers, sending Jackson, Sam Mills, Vaughan Johnson, and Pat Swilling to the Pro Bowl. The Detroit Lions had tried to sign Swilling as a restricted free agent a year ago, knowing they couldn't compete in the NFC without the dominant front seven. They were unsuccessful at the time, but they finally obtained him for their first-round pick in the '93 draft. The Bears lost Marshall and Dan Hampton and faced The 49ers, feeling greedy, added Harris from Green Bay, which made Haley expendable. With Harris and down lineman Pierce Holt, the 49ers made another run for glory only to see the guts of their defense torn by the free-agent signings of Holt in Atlanta and Harris in Philadelphia.

In 1991, the Cowboys finished 17th in the league in defense. In 1992, they added Haley, turned tackles Russell Maryland and Tony Casillas loose, developed linebacker Ken Norton Jr., plugged in some rookies, and finished first in defense. The Bears beat out the Giants to hire Dallas defensive coordinator Dave Wannstedt as their head coach.

Why have the Buffalo Bills dominated the AFC and made three straight Super Bowl trips? Could it be that their front seven—including Bruce Smith, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley, Jeff Wright, and Shane Conlan—resembles an NFC team's? The Bills were 4-0 against the NFC during the regular season, but couldn't sustain it in the Super Bowl.

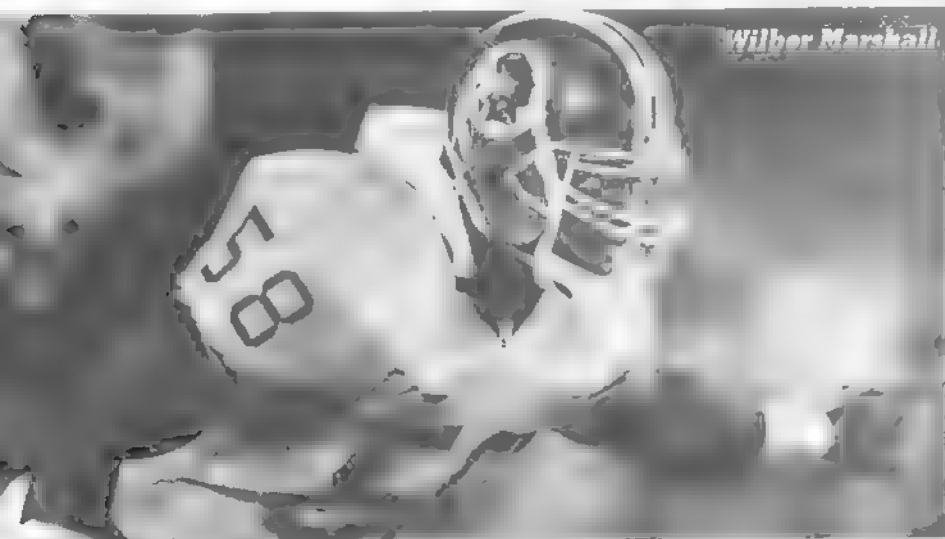
Meanwhile, the AFC drafted quarterbacks. Following the great NFC linebacker draft of 1981, there was the great AFC quarterback draft of 1983. John Elway, Todd Blackledge, Jim Kelly, Ken O'Brien, Tony Eason, and Dan Marino all were drafted in the first round by AFC teams. They are a combined 0-8 in Super Bowls, proving only one thing: The linebacker draft was more important.

"Quarterbacks make up just a small part of the team," the Saints' Jackson said. "They may have good arms, but you need that strength up front."

Front sevens aren't the only NFC edge. Despite the reputation of AFC quarterbacks, five of the top six passers in the league in 1992 hailed from the NFC: Steve Young, Chris Miller, Troy Aikman, Randall Cunningham, and Brett Favre. The top five receivers in yards all were from the NFC: Sterling Sharpe, Michael Irvin, Jerry Rice, Andre Rison, and Fred Barnett. The top rusher was the Cowboys' Emmitt Smith.

Neither coaches nor players pay as much attention to NFC-AFC records and rivalries as fans. Interconference play, common rules and a common draft leave little room for differences, let alone gaps. The NFC has not only won nine Super Bowls in a row, but the average score is 39-16. And that includes 20-19 and 20-16 games. Interconference records usually run about dead even despite the Super Bowl dominance. In 1992, it was a more lopsided 30-23 in favor of the NFC.

"We're all just trying to win championships," Shula said. "But you have to give the NFC credit. You can't deny the Super Bowl."



1993 ALL-NFC TEAM

OFFENSE

WR Jerry Rice, San Francisco
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay
TE Jackie Harris, Green Bay
OT Jim Lachey, Washington
Jumbo Elliott, New York
OG Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
John Gasek, Dallas
C Joel Hilgenberg, New Orleans
QB Troy Aikman, Dallas
RB Emmitt Smith, Dallas
Barry Sanders, Detroit
PK Morten Andersen, New Orleans
KR Mel Gray, Detroit

DEFENSE

DE Reggie White, Green Bay
Wayne Martin, New Orleans
DT Pierce Holt, Atlanta
Henry Thomas, Minnesota
OLB Tony Bennett, Green Bay
Wilber Marshall, Washington
ILB Byron Evans, Philadelphia
Chris Spielman, Detroit
CB Deion Sanders, Atlanta
Donnell Woolford, Chicago
S Todd Scott, Minnesota
Thomas Everett, Dallas
P Rich Camanillo, Phoenix

NFC West



FORTY-NINERS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Coker, 107 points on 53 extra points and 18 field goals 4th
RUSHING—Walters, 1,013 yards on 206 carries, 4.9 avg. 9
 TDs 8th
PASSING—Young, 288 of 402 attempts for 3,465 yards and 25 TDs 1st
RECEIVING—Rice, 84 receptions for 1,201 yards, 14.3 avg., 10 TDs 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Griffin, 5 for 4 yards, 0.8 average T4th
PUNTING—Wilmsmeyer, 49 punts, 39.1 avg., longest 58 yards 14th
PUNT RETURNS—Grant, 29 for 249 yards, 8.6 average 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Logan, 22 for 478 yards, 21.7 average 6th
SACKS—Harris, 17.0 sacks 2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	1	Pittsburgh at Barcelona, Spain
	7	L.A. RAIDERS at Stanford, CA
	18	At Denver (N)
	21	At Seattle (N)
	28	SAN DIEGO (N)

		1992 SCORES
September	5	At Pittsburgh...
	13	At Cleveland (N)
	19	ATLANTA...
	26	At New Orleans...
October	3	MINNESOTA...
	10	OPEN DATE
	17	At Dallas...
	24	PHOENIX...
	31	L.A. RAMS...
November	7	OPEN DATE
	14	At Tampa Bay...
	22	NEW ORLEANS (N)...
	28	At L.A. Rams...
December	5	CINCINNATI (N)...
	11	At Atlanta...
	19	At Detroit...
	25	HOUSTON...
January	3	PHILADELPHIA (N)...

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

For years, the NFL has taken pride in its parity, creating a sport that gives everybody an even chance. Revenue sharing, the draft, the waiver wire, and weighted scheduling all are designed to provide competitive balance. The 49ers overcame it all. They drafted Joe Montana in the third round, traded for Steve Young when other teams didn't want him, signed Steve Bono off the waiver wire, and generally

discovered and developed players better than other teams. At 14-2 for the regular season, the 49ers earned an NFL-record 10th straight year of double-digit victories. At 15-3 after the playoffs, they were disappointed.

So, after trying to beat the 49ers on the field for more than a decade, rivals conspired to change the rules and beat them off the field in an attempt to dismantle one of football's great dynasties. Free agency and a salary cap have entered the picture. The 49ers of 1992 opened without Charles Haley, and his presence in Dallas was more than coincidental to the Cowboys' Super Bowl title. The 49ers of 1993 will open without Joe Montana, without Pierce Holt, without Tim Harris. They lost Holt and Harris to teams with lower payrolls. They were forced to unload the unhappy Montana when coach George Seifert insisted on sticking with Young. If the 49ers survive this last offseason, they deserve all the accolades a dynasty earns. They recouped some of their losses by signing free agent safety Tim McDonald from Phoenix, but again the rules inhibited an all-out assault on Reggie White and prevented them from entering into free agency at all until they lost Holt.

Not many foes are feeling sorry yet. Even without Montana, the 49ers have Young, who has made a career of overcoming odds and must face yet another season of question

marks. Despite becoming the first quarterback to record back-to-back passer ratings of plus-100, Young was blamed by some for the 49er loss to Dallas in the NFC title game. As long as Montana was on the bench, he would haunt Young. Now that he's gone to Kansas City, will the haunting stop? Seifert helped nothing when he offered Montana his old job back in a clumsy, last-minute attempt to salvage another season from No. 16. Does that mean Young is just a lucky backup? Young directed the No. 1 offense in the league in yards and scoring and won his second passer title by a whopping 16.3 points over his closest competitor. It was a lasting tribute to Bill Walsh's system, and another feather in the hat of Seifert, who managed to keep the system intact despite the departure of assistant coaches Mike Holmgren and Sherman Lewis to Green Bay. Young's capably backed up by Bono and young Bill Musgrave, although Young's 76 runs for 537 yards didn't seem to be hazardous to his health.

Jerry Rice is still around, the last link to the past and again the key to the future. He now holds the all-time touchdown reception record with 103 and is beginning only his ninth season. Not surprisingly, Rice says he expects the 49ers to live up to verbal promises to adjust his contract as the numbers for free agents skyrocket. Bono got a five-fold raise to

stay, for example. Rice put up typical receiving numbers despite the prolonged absence of the injured John Taylor on the other side. Mervyn Fernandez from the Raiders offsets the departure of wide receiver Mike Sherrard to the Giants. And few teams have a tight end as talented as Brent Jones, who finished second to Rice with 45 catches. Jamie Williams and Wesley Walls provide the blocking as necessary at the position.

The emergence of Ricky Watters at running back was a welcome addition. His 1,013 yards and 4.9-yard average were records for a first-year 49er back and his 43 receptions made him doubly dangerous. The key is consistency. The 49ers will need Watters more than ever in 1993, although backup Amp Lee proved more than ready to provide help when needed. Tom Rathman remains the best pure fullback in the league, adding nine touchdowns to his repertoire of blocking, running, and receiving.

The 49ers sent left tackle Steve Wallace and guard Guy McIntyre to the Pro Bowl and complained that right tackle Harris Barton should have gone. Center Jesse Sapolu and right guard Roy Foster also turned in solid seasons. Barton's three missed starts were the only games missed by the entire group in an unusual display of durability. Harry Boatswain, Brian Bollinger, and Ralph Tamm didn't get much experience as backups.

Seibert will need to rebuild his defense, and the drafting of tackle Dana Stubblefield and

end Todd Kelly in the first round is a starting point. Harris was second in the league in sacks with 17, but the more difficult shoes to fill may be Holt's. He lined up outside in the 3-4 and inside in the nickel, providing consistently excellent play in all situations. Young Dennis Brown and Ted Washington will now get a chance to line up with veterans Michael Carter and Kevin Fagan, while Kelly will get a shot at replacing Harris as the designated pass rusher. Second-year surprise Martin Harrison also will get a look. Linebackers Keith DeLong, Mike Walter, and Bill Romanowski are the run-stoppers, with Romanowski and Walter 1-2 in tackles. The 49ers had to fight off the Washington Redskins for Romanowski, matching an offer to keep him. Darin Jordan and John Johnson are backups.

McDonald steps in at strong safety to replace David Whitmore, who joins Montana in Kansas City. McDonald will be a settling influence on second-year free safety Dana Hall who played well as a rookie calling signals. In Phoenix, McDonald led his team in tackles three out of four years. Don Griffin is an underrated cornerback and Eric Davis showed improvement on the other side. Rookie Adrian

Hardy will get a chance to compete with Merton Hanks, Michael McGruder, and Alan Grant for a reserve role. Thane Gash is a backup safety. The 49ers ranked 26th against the pass, partly because opponents were constantly playing catch-up and partly because the young secondary took some lumps early in the season. After giving up 14 touchdown passes in their first eight games, it yielded only six in the final eight.

Punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer is an example of the superior scouting and coaching that has kept the 49ers on top. Claimed on waivers from the lowly Buccaneers, the rookie placed 19 punts inside the 20 and had only two touchbacks. Place-kicker Mike Cofer survived a slump. The return of the injured Dexter Carter would help the return game.

49ERS VETERAN

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
74	Boatswain Harry	T	6-4	286	29	North Carolina
65	Boatswain Harry	T	6-4	286	29	North Carolina
71	Bollinger Brian	G	6-5	285	25	North Carolina
13	Bono Steve	QB	6-4	211	31	UCLA
96	Brown Dennis	DE	6-4	290	28	Washington
35	Carter Dexter	RB	5-9	174	26	Florida State
95	Carter Michael	NT	6-2	285	33	SMU
6	Cofer Mike	K	6-1	190	29	N.C. State
25	Davis Eric	CB	5-11	178	25	Jacksonville St.
54	Deese Derrick	G	6-3	270	23	Southern Cal.
59	DeLong Keith	LB	6-2	250	26	Tennessee
54	Donahue Mitch	LB	6-2	254	25	Wyoming
24	Foster Roy	DE	6-4	205	30	Major
67	Foster Roy	WR	6-3	205	34	San Jose St.
3	Gash Thane	S	6-4	200	23	North Carolina
90	Goss Antonio	LB	6-4	226	27	North Carolina
24	Grant Alan	CB	5-10	187	27	Stanford
29	Griffin Don	CB	6-0	180	29	Middle Tenn. St.
28	Hall Dana	S	6-2	206	24	Washington
36	Hanks Merton	CB	6-2	185	25	Iowa
56	Harrison Martin	LB	6-3	240	25	Washington
55	Johnson John	LB	6-3	230	25	Clatsop
84	Jones Brent	TE	6-4	230	30	Santa Clara
90	Jordan Darin	LB	6-2	245	29	Northeastern
68	LaBounty Matt	DE	6-4	254	24	Oregon
22	Lee Amp	RB	5-11	200	22	Florida State
45	Levis Kevin	CB	5-11	173	27	Northwestern St.
43	Logan Marc	RB	6-0	212	28	Kentucky
43	McDonald Tim	SS	6-2	215	28	Southern Cal.
26	McGruder Michael	CB	5-10	190	29	Kent State
62	McIntyre Guy	G	6-3	276	32	Georgia
14	Musgrave Bill	CB	6-2	205	26	Oregon
44	Rathman Tom	FB	6-1	232	31	Nebraska
80	Rice Jerry	WR	6-2	200	31	Miss. Valley St.
53	Roberts Larry	DE	6-3	275	30	Alabama
53	Romanowski Bill	LB	6-4	240	27	Boston College
61	Sapolu Jesse	C	6-4	278	32	Hawaii
83	Seay Mark	WR	6-0	175	26	Long Beach St.
64	Tamm Ralph	G-C	6-4	280	27	West Chester
82	Taylor John	WR	6-1	185	31	Delaware State
72	Thomas Mark	DE	6-5	273	24	N.C. State
32	Thomas Rodney	CB	5-11	185	28	BYU
86	Turner Odessa	WR	6-3	215	29	Northwestern St.
93	Verns Garin	DE	6-4	255	30	Stanford
27	Walker Adam	RB	6-1	210	25	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace Steve	T	6-5	280	29	Auburn
89	Walls Wesley	TE	6-5	254	27	Mississippi
99	Walter Mike	LB	6-3	246	33	Oregon
97	Washington Ted	NT-DE	6-4	295	25	Louisville
32	Watters Ricky	RB	6-1	212	24	Notre Dame
32	Wilkins David	LB	6-4	240	24	Eastern Kentucky
61	Williams Jamie	TE	6-4	245	33	Nebraska
10	Wilmsmeyer Klaus	P	6-1	210	26	Louisville
8	Young Steve	QB	6-2	205	32	BYU

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Stubblefield Dana	DT	6-2	288	Kansas
1	Kelly Todd	DE	6-3	260	Tennessee
2	Hardy Adrian	CB	6-0	194	NW Louisiana
5	Smith Arlie	DT	6-5	286	Louisiana Tech
6	Dutton Chris	C	6-4	290	Stanford
7	Walls Wesley	LB	6-4	235	Pittsburg St.
8	Young Steve	QB	6-4	233	Michigan

JESSE SAPOLU

TOM RATHMAN



VAUGHN
DUNBAR

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Good things just don't come to the Saints in a hurry. If patience is a virtue, this is a team that truly lives up to its name. After waiting 21 years to get into the playoffs, they are now waiting to win a playoff game. It's six years and counting. After four playoff games and four losses, they remain the only team in the NFL without a postseason victory.

Their defense allowed a team-record-low 202 points, the fewest in the NFL. They were the best in the league in average gain per play allowed. They were the only NFC team who did not allow a 300-yard passing or a 100-yard receiving game against them. They were the least penalized team in the NFL. Yet when crunch time came, they gave up 29 points in a row and blew a 20-7 lead in a devastating 36-20 playoff loss to the Eagles, right in the Superdome, where they had lost the year before to the Falcons.

The Saints are growing tired of winning all the statistics and losing all the playoff games. Only the 49ers and Bills have won more regular-season games over the last six years, a fact that only makes for a merry Christmas, not a happy New Year. This year, they will try something new. They are going at it without top quarterback Bobby Hebert, top linebacker Pat Swilling, and top fullback Craig Heyward. They want new faces to bring new results. Wade Wilson gets a chance to play quarterback full-time again. The Saints were the only team to draft two players rated No. 1 at their positions: offensive tackle Willie Roaf and tight end Irv Smith.

Hebert threw two interceptions in the second half of last year's playoff loss and that was all general manager Jim Finks needed to see. Hebert had enjoyed his best season, but in the clutch he came up short. Against the 49ers earlier in the Superdome, his interception in the end zone ended a 16-10 loss. So

Hebert went to Atlanta after Wilson signed with the Saints. Is Wilson the answer? Although he went on a tear with the Falcons, hitting 13 touchdown passes in three starts as a reserve for Chris Miller and Billy Joe Tolliver, Wilson will be 34, a year older than Hebert. He has spent most of his career as a backup. The Vikings gave up on him after three years as a starter. One thing Wilson has is patience, which may make him a perfect fit. Fourth-year player Mike Buck was moved ahead of Steve Walsh on last year's depth chart, but Walsh



DALTON
HILLIARD

may understand the offense better than Buck and make a run for the starting job again if Wilson falters.

One thing the quarterbacks get in New Orleans is good protection. The addition of Roaf

SCORING—Andersen, 120 points on 33 extra points and 29 field goals. **11st**
RUSHING—Dunbar, 565 yards on 154 carries, 3.7 avg., 3 TDs. **14th**
PASSING—Hebert, 249 of 422 attempts for 3,267 yards and 19 TDs. **6th**
RECEIVING—Martin, 68 receptions for 1,041 yards, 15.3 avg., 5 TDs. **7th**
INTERCEPTIONS—Cook, 6 for 90 yards, 15.0 avg., 1 TD. **13rd**
PUNTING—Barnhardt, 87 punts, 44.0 avg., longest 62 yards. **2nd**
PUNT RETURNS—Newman, 23 for 158 yards, 6.9 average. **10th**
KICKOFF RETURNS—McAfee, 19 for 399 yards, 20.7 avg. **Unranked**
SACKS—Martin, 15.5 sacks. **3rd**

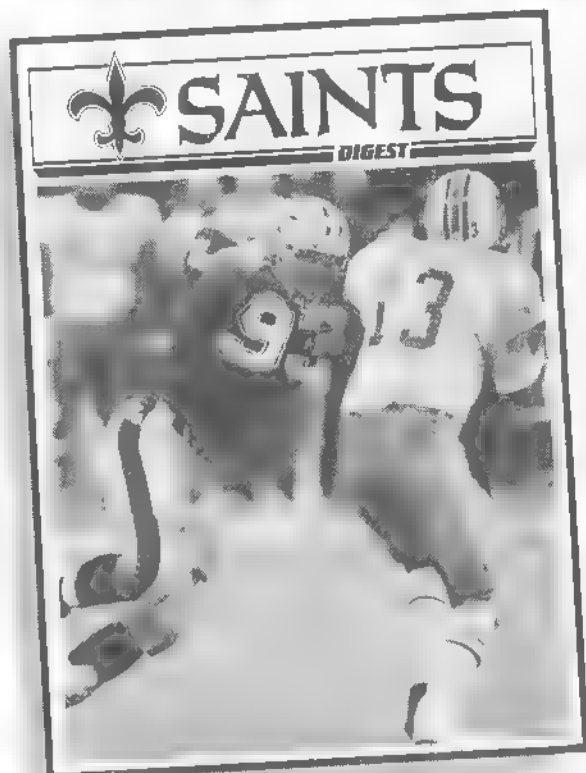
July	31	Philadelphia at Tokyo, Japan (N)
August	7	Houston at San Antonio, TX (N)
	14	Green Bay at Madison, WI
	23	CHICAGO (N)
	27	DETROIT (N)

1993 SCHEDULE		1992 SCORES
September	5 HOUSTON (N)	—
	12 A. A. A. A.	10-7
	19 DETROIT	13-7
	26 SAN FRANCISCO	10-16
October	3 A. A. Rams	37-14
	10 OPEN DATE	—
	7 A. Pittsburgh	—
	24 ATLANTA	22-14
	31 A. Phoenix	30-21
November	7 OPEN DATE	—
	14 GREEN BAY	—
	22 At San Francisco (N)	20-21
	28 At Minnesota	—
December	5 A. Cleveland	—
	12 A. RAMS	13-10
	20 N.Y. GIANTS (N)	—
	26 A. Philadelphia	13-15
January	2 CINCINNATI	—

and Smith only fortifies an offensive line that led the league by giving up only 15 sacks and started every game intact. At the same time, the Saints failed to produce a single 100-yard game from any of their running backs and were especially inept on third-and-short, so the offensive line received its share of blame as well as credit. Roaf will push Richard Cooper at left tackle and both are insurance for 14-year veteran Stan Brock at right tackle. Left guard Jim Dombrowski is the Saints' iron-man blocker and right guard Derek Kennard and center Joel Higgenberg are solid. Higgenberg finally succeeded brother Jay as a Pro Bowl starter. Chris Port, Paul Jetton, and Gene McGuire are backups.

Smith will push 33-year-old tight end Hoby Brenner for the starting job. He can block and

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catch. The Saints' tight ends caught only 21 passes last year. At wide receiver, the reliable Eric Martin remains the go-to guy after leading the team in catches for six straight years. Torrance Small came on as a rookie to push Quinn Early, with Wesley Carroll, Patrick Newman, and Floyd Turner giving the Saints depth at the position if Turner can fully recover from a broken leg.

Running back remains a concern. Young Vaughn Dunbar led the club with 565 yards, tops for rookies in the league, but his 3.7-yard average was nothing special. Dalton Hilliard is still around and Fred McAfee slipped to only 39 carries after leading the team in 1991. Drafting fullback Lorenzo Neal and halfback Derek Brown in the fourth round will provide competition. The absence of Hayward and the addition of Brad Muster from the Bears will force a change in philosophy for the offense. Hayward is the classic lead-blocking fullback who had exceptional running and receiving skills that the Saints never fully exploited. He had three of the Saints' longest runs from scrimmage last year, although none was long-

Saints of remaining strong at the position even without Swilling.

They all benefited from an outstanding season from left end Wayne Martin, who came on with 15½ sacks in his fourth season. Since three sacks were a previous career best, the Saints hope the 15½ were not an exception. Aging Jim Wilks and Frank Warren are the other starters on the line, backed up by Robert Goff and Les Miller, who both see playing time on a rotating basis.

The secondary is coming off a good year and hopes to regain the services of injured strong safety Brett Maxie. Cornerback Tor Cook led the club with six interceptions and Reggie Jones won a spot as a starter in his second season ahead of nickel back Vince Buck. Free safety Gene Atkins is one of the NFL's underrated players at his position. Jimmy Spencer, Cedric Mack, Antonio Gibson, and Sean Lumpkin are backups.

The Saints still need better results on punt and kickoff returns, but place-kicker Morten Andersen alone puts them among the league's best on special teams. Andersen was the only kicker deemed a transition exception to free agency. Punter Tommy Barnhardt is coming off his best year.



WADE WILSON

er than a 25-yarder by Dunbar, indicative of the team's overall lack of speed. With Muster, the Saints have an unconventional fullback of a different sort. An excellent receiver and deceptive runner, Muster does nothing except make yardage whenever given the chance. With the Bears, he played only 54 percent of the time last season and often sat out on third down, when he is especially effective as a receiver. Although he is a good blocker, he is not a Hayward.

Without Swilling, the Saints' defense promises a new look. Swilling and fellow linebackers Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills, and Vaughn Johnson became the first foursome from one team to get voted to a Pro Bowl at the same time. That Swilling is the youngest of the group makes his departure a bit of a gamble for the Saints, but his 1992 performance failed to match his 1991 numbers. Renaldo Turnbull, a 1990 No. 1 draft choice, will get a shot at replacing Swilling on the right side, where Joel Smeenge or even inside reserve DeMond Winston could challenge Jackson, the ageless wonder of the left side, led the linebackers with 13½ sacks last year and shows no signs of slowing down. Mills and Vaughan are as solid a pair inside as any in the league. Second-round draft pick Reggie Freeman and inside backup James Williams ensure the



HOBY BRENNER



VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	33	Michigan State
28	Atkins, Gene	FS	6-1	200	29	Florida A&M
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	30	North Carolina
98	Brandon, Michael	DE	6-4	290	25	Florida
85	Brenner, Hobie	TE	5-5	245	33	Southern Cal
67	Brock, Stan	DT	6-6	285	35	Colorado
16	Buck, Mike	CB	6-3	227	26	Maine
26	Buck, Vince	CB	6-0	198	25	Central St.
80	Carroll, Wesley	WR	6-0	183	26	Miami
41	Cook, Tor	CB	5-11	188	29	Stanford
71	Cooper, Richard	DT	6-5	290	29	Tennessee
7	Dandridge, Jim	OL	6-5	298	30	Virginia
9	Dawson, Marcus	WR	5-10	179	23	Tennessee St.
62	Jones, Reginald	DE	6-4	275	26	LSU
37	Dunbar, Vaughn	RB	5-10	204	25	Indiana
49	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	28	Iowa
44	Gibson, Antonio	S	6-2	210	31	Cincinnati
91	Hilliard, Dalton	DT	6-3	270	28	Auburn
74	Hunter, Ken	T	6-5	285	28	W. Michigan
6	Jones, Reggie	OL	6-2	252	31	Iowa
21	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-8	204	29	LSU
4	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	35	Pittsburgh
68	Jelton, Paul	OL	6-4	288	29	Texas
53	Johnson, Vaughn	LB	6-3	235	31	N.C. State
27	Jones, Reginald	CB	6-1	202	24	Memphis St.
23	Jordan, Buford	FB	6-0	223	31	McNeese St.
60	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	300	31	Nevada-Reno
43	Leggett, Tyrone	CB	5-8	177	23	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6-0	206	23	Minnesota
47	Mack, Cedric	CB	5-11	190	33	Baylor
84	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	32	LSU
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	28	Arkansas
39	Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	31	Texas Southern
25	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	193	25	Mississippi College
76	McGuire, Gene	C	6-2	284	28	Notre Dame
69	Miller, Les	DT	6-7	285	28	Fl. Hays St.
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	34	Montclair St.
36	Muster, Brad	FB	6-3	229	28	Stanford
38	Ned, Derrick	RB	6-1	210	24	Grambling St.
86	Newman, Patrick	WR	5-11	189	25	Utah State
20	Pinkett, Allen	RB	5-9	196	29	Notre Dame
70	Port, Chris	OL	6-5	290	26	Duke
83	Small, Torrance	WR	6-3	201	23	Alcorn State
99	Smeenge, Joel	LB	6-5	255	25	W. Michigan
37	Spencer, Jimmy	CB	5-9	180	24	Florida
49	Stowers, Tommie	TE	6-3	240	27	Missouri
29	Taylor, Keith	S	5-11	206	28	Illinois
62	Tice, John	TE	6-5	249	33	Maryland
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	LB	6-4	265	27	West Virginia
88	Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	188	27	Northwestern St.
87	Wannight, Frank	TE	6-3	236	26	N. Colorado
4	Walsh, Steve	CB	6-3	210	27	Miami
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	34	Auburn
94	Wilks, Jim	DL	6-5	275	36	San Diego St.
90	Williams, James	LB	6-0	230	25	Mississippi St.
Wilson, Wade	CB	6-3	205	34	East Texas St.	
92	Winston, DeMond	LB	6-2	239	25	Vanderbilt

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Red, Willie	OT	6-5	294	Louisiana Tech
1	Smith, Irv	TE	6-3	255	Notre Dame
2	Freeman, Reggie	LB	6-2	235	Florida State
4	Neal, Lorenzo	FB	5-10	236	Fresno State
4	Brown, Derek	RB	5-9	183	Nebraska
5	Hughes, Tyrone	DB	5-10	175	Nebraska
6	Doran, Ronnie	NT	6-2	269	Cincinnati
7	Henderson, Otis	DB	6-0	200	JCLA
8	Kinsey, Jon	NT	6-3	333	Sacramento St.

DEION SANDERS



FALCONS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson, 93 points on 39 extra points and 18 field goals, 77th
RUSHING—Broussard, 363 yards on 84 carries, 4.3 avg., 17th
PASSING—Miller, 152 of 253 attempts for 1,739 yards and 15 TDs, 2nd
RECEIVING—Rison, 93 receptions for 1,119 yards, 12.0 avg., and 11 TDs, 2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Sanders, 3 for 105 yards, 35.0 average, 16th
PUNTING—Fulhage, 68 punts, 41.4 avg., longest 56 yards, 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Smith, 16 for 155 yards, 9.7 average
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sanders, 40 for 1,067 yards, 26.7 avg., 2nd
SACKS—Conner, 7.0 sacks, 13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	8	MIAMI (N)
	14	TAMPA BAY (N)
	21	At Philadelphia (N)
	27	At Buffalo (N)

1992	WEEK	OPPONENT	SCORE
September	5	At Detroit	7-10
	12	NEW ORLEANS	17-56
	19	At San Francisco	-
	27	PITTSBURGH (N)	-
October	3	At Chicago	31-41
	10	OPEN DATE	-
	17	L.A. RAMS (N)	90-28
	24	At New Orleans	4-22
	31	TAMPA BAY	30-7
November		OPEN DATE	-
	14	At L.A. Rams	27-38
	21	DALLAS	17-41
	28	CLEVELAND	-
December	5	At Houston	-
	11	SAN FRANCISCO	3-4
	19	At Washington	7-24
	26	At Cincinnati	-
January	2	PHOENIX	20-17

ATLANTA FALCONS

Few teams went after free agents as vigorously as the Falcons, who sent the state legislature after Reggie White. Few teams needed to go after free agents so enthusiastically. White got a standing ovation when he visited the capitol. Lawmakers who found themselves powerless to stop the speeding through the Falcon defense last season also failed to slow down White on his way to Green Bay. But the Falcons came up with help elsewhere.

San Francisco defensive lineman Pierce Holt was guaranteed \$7.5 million to line up for the Falcons. Since the 49ers scored 97 points in two games against Atlanta last season, any 49er would have to earn that much just to consider switching sides. The Falcons went on to sign every defensive back they could find who never played baseball. Losing strong safety Brian Jordan last year to the St. Louis Cardinals organization and sharing cornerback Deion Sanders with the Atlanta Braves through the World Series showed a remarkable support for the nation's summer pastime

but it did little to calm the nerves of coach Jerry Glanville. The Falcons were so bad on defense that Glanville couldn't have caught up in his racing car. Opposing teams scored 40 points or more five times. The Falcons were dead last against the run and last overall on defense. They gave up more yards and more points than anyone else, allowed more touchdowns (44) and intercepted the fewest passes (11). It's tough to intercept passes and field fly balls at the same time.

When it came time for the draft, the Falcons took an offensive tackle. Already blessed with two of the greats in Mike Kenn and Chris Hinton, and only one year after drafting Bob Whitfield No. 1, the Falcons made 358-pound Lincoln Kennedy their first choice. With a name like that, he probably could draw applause from the legislators, too. The Falcons were forced to take an offensive lineman because free agency wiped out their starting guards, Houston Hoover and Bill Fralic. Former Pro Bowl guard Hinton will move back to that position to allow Whitfield to play right tackle. Kenn just keeps ticking on the left side, where Kennedy may eventually wind up. Roman Fortune or Mike Rether may have to fill in at the other guard spot until the Falcons think of something else. Center Jamie Dukes remains solid in the middle, where the Falcons could be



hurting without their guards. They gave up 40 sacks last year, an indication of problems even before Hoover and Fralic bolted.

Runners definitely take a back seat in Atlanta's run-and-shoot. The Falcons have great weapons at receiver in Andre Rison, Mike Haynes, Mike Pritchard, and Drew Hill, with newcomer Aaron Cox acquired from the Rams in case Hill retires. Rison finished with 93 receptions after catching only five passes in the first three games. He would have threatened the league-record 108 by Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe had he signed in time to avert Glanville's wrath. His 11 touchdown catches led the team and earned him another Pro Bowl berth. Haynes is one of the league's premier deep threats, turning 48 catches into 10 touchdowns, an impressive ratio. Pritchard is fast beginning to live up to his promise after a

slow start on a team designed by the coach to ignore youngsters.

The receivers have to be good, because the running attack produced nobody who gained more than 363 yards. That was Steve Broussard, who outgained rookie Tony Smith by 34 yards. Both are first-round picks by Glanville, who doesn't seem to like either, although Smith showed flashes. To shore up their anemic rushing game, the Falcons took a stab at the Saints' fullback Craig Heyward, who went to Chicago.

The Falcons did end up with New Orleans quarterback Bobby Hebert instead, providing a curious twist to the plot. Hebert swapped places with Wade Wilson, whose fireman role in replacing the injured Chris Miller last season was spectacular. He threw 13 touchdown passes and only four interceptions in relief of Miller after Glanville got into a sideline fight with the No. 1 backup. Billy Joe Tolliver Miller is expected back after a knee injury erased a promising start, but the veteran Hebert could push Miller if results aren't forthcoming. The Falcons paid Hebert over \$10 million for three years, so they either have plans for him or are worried about Miller's knee.

Holt is instantly the star of a defensive line so small it averaged just 250 pounds on occasion. The addition of pass rusher Jumpy Geathers from Washington also is a plus,

more than making up for the loss of starting end Oliver Barnett. But Geathers is not an every-down player, so the return of Mike Gann from illness and the undersized Tim Green from injury is important. Nose tackle Moe Gardner is willing and adequate, but he needs help. Backups John Washington, Tony Epps, Mel Agee, and Bill Goldberg are welcome to emerge.

At linebacker, the stabilizing force is middle man Jesse Tuggle, finally recognized by Pro Bowl voters after another whopping total of tackles. By Atlanta statistics, he had 193, maybe because nobody else was getting in the way. Jesse Solomon gave the team experience and the inconsistent Danon Conner started to fulfill his potential with seven sacks from the right side, opposite Ken Tippins. This is not an overpowering group and fifth-round draft pick Ron George of Stanford will get a chance to show something immediately.

Help for Deion Sanders in the secondary should come from free-agent signees Vinnie Clark of Green Bay, Alton Montgomery of Denver, and Mel Jenkins of Detroit plus second-round draft choice Roger Harper. Sanders is outstanding on the right side, especially when he isn't wearing his baseball cap. His tackling has improved and his speed in recovering and making plays is phenomenal. Third-year man Bruce Pickens must be ready to

beat out Tim McKyer on the other side, with Jenkins a capable reserve who could vie for a starting job. Clark was a first-round corner in Green Bay who might be a better safety. Montgomery and Harper will push Jeff Donaldson and Scott Case for jobs inside, where the Falcons were hampered by injuries.

Sanders alone makes the Falcons dangerous on special teams, although few are willing to kick to him anymore. Norm Johnson hit 18 of 22 field goals, benefiting from the new dome. Scott Fulhage will get competition at punter. Reserve defensive back Elbert Shelley earned such a reputation hunting heads on coverage that he made the Pro Bowl.

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

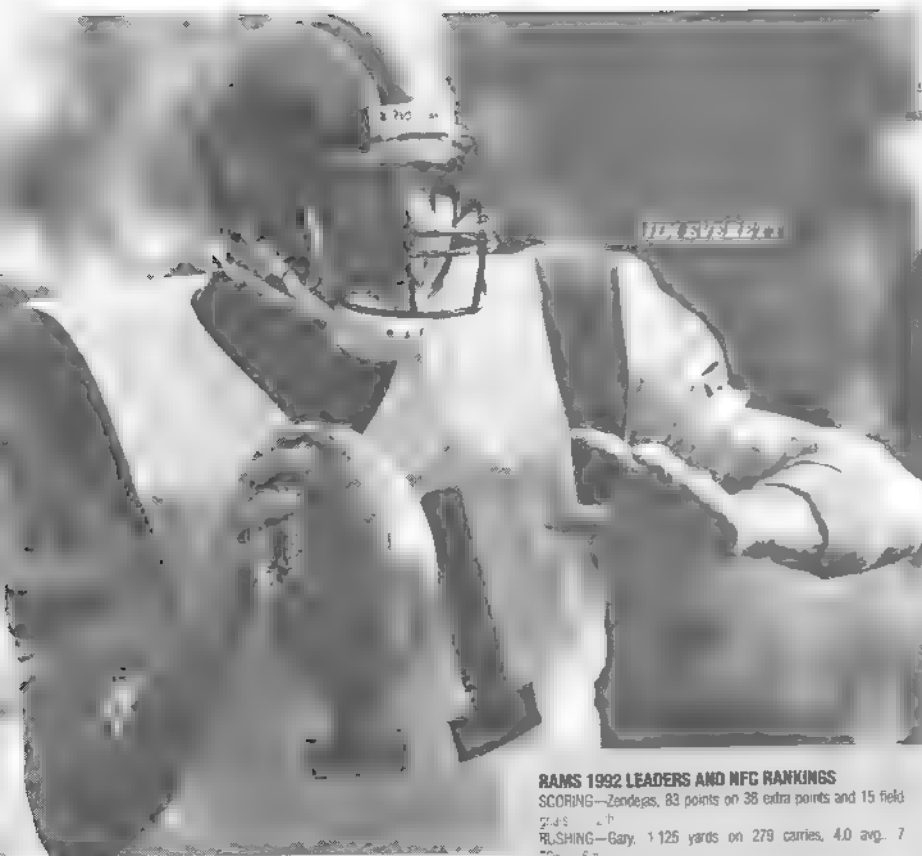
no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
68	Agee, Mel	TE	6-5	288	25	Illinois
62	Allen, Keith	G	6-4	315	24	Texas A&M
34	Broussard, Steve	RB	5-7	201	26	Washington St.
77	Byron, Rick	DE	6-4	266	31	Oklahoma
72	Budenberg, John	S	6-6	275	27	Ark.
25	Case, Doug	S	6-1	188	31	Oklahoma
27	Clark, Vinnie	CB	6-0	194	24	Ohio State
56	Conner, Danon	LB	6-2	245	26	Jackson State
57	Cox, Vernon	WR	5-9	178	28	Arizona St.
97	Dixon, Howard	LB	6-1	223	24	Florida State
42	Donaldson, Jeff	S	6-1	190	31	Colorado
64	Dumas, James	C	6-1	285	29	Florida State
32	Eaton, Tracey	S	6-1	195	28	Penn. State
4	Epps, Tony	NT	6-1	280	26	Memphis State
29	Fulhage, Scott	S	6-0	272	26	Calicut Newman
53	George, Ron	LB	6-3	235	30	Washington St.
65	Hart, Thomas	S	6-5	280	26	San Diego St.
17	Holmes, Sean	P	6-1	193	32	Kansas State
76	Gann, Mike	DE	6-5	270	30	No. Dame
67	Gardner, Moe	NT	6-2	258	25	Illinois
97	Geathers, Jumpy	DE	6-1	290	33	Western State
59	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-2	216	25	Texas
1	Johnson, Norm	NT	6-2	266	24	Georgia
88	McKyer, Tim	WR	5-9	172	23	Houston
99	Montgomery, Alton	DE	6-2	245	30	Syracuse
51	Harper, Roger	B	6-2	220	25	Tennessee
8	Harmon, Michael	WR	6-1	180	27	Northwestern
85	Holt, Cecil	WR	5-9	172	37	Georgia Tech
75	Harmon, Chris	T	6-4	300	32	Northwestern
90	Hoff, Bruce	DE	6-4	280	31	Angelo State
20	Jenkins, Mel	CB	5-10	173	31	Cincinnati
9	Kennedy, Lincoln	OT	6-2	203	34	UCLA
32	Knox, Keith	RB	6-1	210	27	Illinois
83	Miller, Tony	WR	5-7	145	26	Texas
13	Kyle, Tim	P	6-5	276	26	Miami
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	280	37	Michigan
82	LeBeau, Hal	TE	6-4	245	30	Colorado St.
21	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-1	174	30	Texas-Arlington
16	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-2	205	27	Oregon
87	Wong, James	WR	5-9	160	27	Maryland
24	Mitchell, Brian	CB	5-9	164	29	BYU
22	Montgomery, Alton	CB	6-0	195	25	Houston
36	Montgomery, Alton	RB	6-1	227	26	NE Oklahoma St.
33	Payton, John	RB	5-9	198	24	NE Texas State
82	Payton, Jason	WR	5-7	166	27	Houston
39	Powers, Bruce	CB	5-11	190	25	Nebraska
35	Richard, Mike	WR	5-9	180	24	Colorado
30	Ryan, Tim	S	6-1	187	24	Oklahoma
26	Roberts, Louis	S	6-2	216	24	Pittsburgh
80	Rosen, Andre	WR	6-1	198	26	Michigan State
30	Shelley, Elbert	CB	6-4	286	3	Texas
21	Sanders, Deion	CB	6-1	185	26	Florida State
37	Shelley, Elbert	CB	6-1	185	29	Arkansas St.
43	Sims, Kelly	CB	6-1	200	23	Cincinnati
90	Smith, Chuck	DE	6-2	242	24	Tennessee
28	Smith, Tim	RB	6-1	214	23	Southern Miss
54	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	215	30	Florida State
62	Tippins, Ken	LB	6-1	230	27	Ark. Tech. St.
1	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	218	27	Texas Tech
36	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	230	28	Valdosta State
40	Washington, John	RB	6-0	191	24	California
40	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	30	Oklahoma
70	Wilson, Bob	OT	6-5	291	22	Stanford

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Kennedy, Lincoln	OT	6-6	358	Washington
2	Harper, Roger	SS	6-2	223	Ohio State
3	Alexander, Harold	P	6-2	225	Appalachian St.
5	George, Ron	LB	6-0	221	Stanford
6	Jones, Mitch	TE	6-1	252	Michigan State
7	Walker, Daniel	CB	6-1	181	Oklahoma
8	Baker, Shannon	WR	5-9	185	Florida State



BOBBY
HEBERT



LOS ANGELES RAMS

Beating Atlanta in last season's finale was a significant turning point for the Rams. It was the first NFC West victory in 15 games. During coach Chuck Knox's first tenure, the Rams routinely controlled the division. After the first season of his return, Knox was being congratulated for his 6-10 record. The highlight of the season was beating the Cowboys in Dallas. The Rams were the only team to beat the champions in Texas Stadium, and it reminded them of how little difference there is between winners and losers in the NFL. That the Rams haven't won two games in a row since 1990 is a reminder that consistency is the key.

In the new system, free agency can change things in a hurry. The Rams found that out when left tackle Gerald Perry became the first player to defect. It set Knox's plans back considerably because the Rams' offensive line had started every game intact in 1992. It was one area Knox didn't think he had to worry about for 1993. When guard Joe Milinichik followed the free-agent path out of town, the Rams were scrambling. They recovered by plugging holes the best they could, concentrating on defense in free agency and offense in the draft. The result was reason for optimism in a division where changes leave the 49ers and Saints vulnerable.

The Rams signed free agent Irv Eatman to play left tackle, an important spot because it is essential that quarterback Jim Everett feels comfortable. They traded for Leo Goeas to replace Milinichik, but he could play tackle. On the line, Eatman hasn't played left tackle since 1988, but unless somebody comes out of nowhere, he is the man charged with protecting Everett's backside. Goeas will play right guard and Jackie Slater will begin his 18th season at right tackle. Center Bern Bros-

RAMS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas, 83 points on 38 extra points and 15 field goals

RUSHING—Gary, 1,125 yards on 279 carries, 4.0 avg., 7 TDs

PASSING—Everett, 281 of 475 attempts for 3,323 yards and 22 TDs

RECEIVING—Gary, 52 receptions for 293 yards, 5.6 avg., 3 TDs

INTERCEPTIONS—Henley, 4 for 41 yards, 10.3 average

PUNTING—Bracken, 76 punts, 41.1 avg., longest 59 yards

POINT RETURNS—Turner, 28 for 287 yards, 7.4 average

KICKOFF RETURNS—Turner, 29 for 563 yards, 19.6 average

SACKS—Greene, 10.0 sacks

TACKLES—T9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 At Phoenix (N)
14 SAN DIEGO (N)
21 At Cleveland (N)
28 L.A. RAIDERS (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

September 5 Green Bay at Milwaukee
12 PITTSBURGH
19 At NY Giants
26 At Houston
October 3 NEW ORLEANS
10 OPEN DATE
14 At Atlanta (N)
21 DETROIT
28 At San Francisco
November 7 OPEN DATE
14 ATLANTA
21 WASHINGTON
28 SAN FRANCISCO
December 5 At San Francisco
12 At New Orleans
19 At Cincinnati
26 CLEVELAND
January 2 CHICAGO

1992 SCORES

September 5 Green Bay at Milwaukee 3-28
12 PITTSBURGH 38-7
19 At NY Giants 20-10
26 At Houston 24-10
October 3 NEW ORLEANS 4-37
10 OPEN DATE
14 At Atlanta (N) 28-30
21 DETROIT 24-27
28 At San Francisco 24-27
November 7 OPEN DATE
14 ATLANTA 38-27
21 WASHINGTON 4-27
28 SAN FRANCISCO 4-20
December 5 At San Francisco 10-13
12 At New Orleans 10-13
19 At Cincinnati 10-13
26 CLEVELAND 10-13
January 2 CHICAGO 10-13

tek and left guard Tom Newberry are solid. Darryl Ashmore is being groomed to replace Slater, probably sometime before the 21st century. Blair Bush, Jeff Pahukoa, and Robert Jenkins are backups.

This is no time for Everett to get nervous. Coming off his best season since 1989, Everett is only 118 yards shy of eclipsing Roman Gabriel's all-time record of 22,223 yards passing, a significant accomplishment for a quarterback who takes more than his share of criticism. After a disastrous opener last sea-

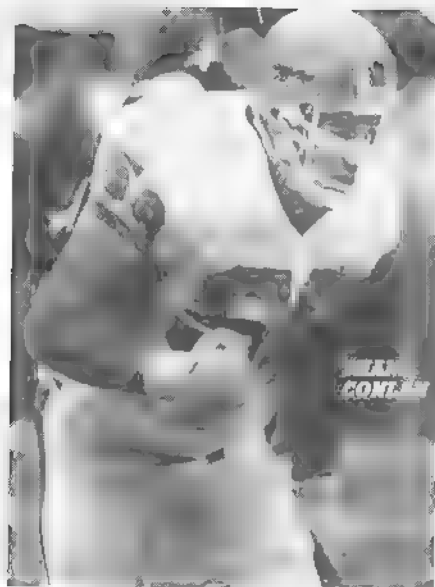
son against Buffalo, Everett improved his passer rating in nine of the remaining 15 weeks and finished a respectable 12th. He had 11 more touchdown passes and two fewer interceptions than his 1991 totals. Few quarterbacks throw prettier passes than Everett when he's on. In one six-game stretch, he hit 68 percent for 1,391 yards, 11 touchdowns, and only three interceptions. That the Rams lost four of those six could hardly be pinned on him. One of football's most durable performers, Everett has started every game for five straight years.

Help at running back was the No. 1 priority of the Rams. They got it in No. 1 draft pick Jerome Bettis. After trying to trade up to land Garrison Hearst, they settled on Bettis, the top fullback and a talent who can fill several

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
83	Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	175	28	UCLA
75	Ashmore, Darryl	T	6-7	300	24	Northwestern
28	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	25	Miami
96	Boutte, Marc	DT	6-4	298	24	LSU
17	Bracken, Don	P	6-1	211	31	Michigan
61	Broshek, Bern	C	6-3	300	27	Washington
51	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	275	37	Washington
88	Carler, Pat	TE	6-3	255	27	Florida State
89	Chadwick, Jeff	WR	6-3	185	33	Grand Valley St.
55	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	230	28	Penn. State
25	Crooms, Chris	S	6-2	211	24	Texas A&M
77	Eatman, Irv	T	6-7	300	32	UCLA
80	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	182	32	Fresno State
11	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	30	Purdue
63	Garten, Joe	OL	6-2	290	24	Colorado
43	Gary, Cleveland	RB	5-0	226	27	Miami
90	Gilbert, Sean	DT	6-4	315	23	Pittsburgh
42	Griffin, Courtney	CB	5-10	180	27	Fresno St.
60	Goeas, Leo	OL	6-4	292	27	Hawaii
67	Harper, Shawn	OL	6-4	290	25	Indiana
62	Harris, Kelvin	OL	6-2	272	24	Miami
	Harry, Emile	WR	5-11	186	30	Stanford
70	Hawkins, Bill	DE	6-6	269	27	Miami
20	Henley, Darryl	CB	5-9	172	27	UCLA
57	Hornio, Thomas	LB	6-0	245	23	Northwestern
31	Israel, Steve	CB	5-10	186	24	Pittsburgh
72	Jenkins, Robert	T	6-5	265	30	UCLA
86	Johnson, Damone	TE	6-4	250	31	Cal Poly-SLO
52	Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	240	29	Texas A&M
81	Kinchen, Todd	WR	6-0	167	24	LSU
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	201	26	Northern Arizona
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	215	25	Eastern Kentucky
27	Lilly IV, Sammy	DB	5-11	175	28	Georgia Tech
41	Lynch, Todd	CB	6-0	186	24	Notre Dame
82	McNeal, Travis	TE	6-3	244	26	UT-Chattanooga
66	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	295	31	Wis.-LaCrosse
26	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	28	Oregon
14	Page, Mike	QB	6-2	207	33	Arizona State
69	Pahukoa, Jeff	OL	6-2	298	24	Washington
58	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	230	25	UCLA
95	Piel, Mike	DT	6-4	270	28	Illinois
98	Powers, Warren	DE	6-6	287	28	Maryland
67	Pricer, Jim	TE	6-4	247	27	Stanford
97	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	262	30	Auburn
92	Rucker, David	DT	6-4	267	24	Auburn
59	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	225	28	Nevada
12	Rutley, T.J.	QB	6-3	205	25	Tulsa
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	287	39	Jackson State
50	Stephen, Scott	LB	5-3	243	28	Arizona State
23	Stewart, Michael	S	6-0	199	28	Fresno State
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	274	29	Georgia Southern
53	Stockland, Fred	LB	6-2	250	27	Purdue
37	Terra, Pat	S	6-0	195	25	Notre Dame
32	Thompson, A.	RB	6-0	210	26	Indiana
55	White, Leon	LB	6-3	242	30	BYU
76	Young, Robert	DE	6-6	273	24	Mississippi St.
10	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	33	Nevada
79	Zendejas, Tony	OL	6-4	292	27	Hawaii

DRAFTTEES

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Bettis, Jerome	FB	5-11	248	Notre Dame
2	Day, Tony	TE	6-2	253	Penn. State
3	Wright, Joseph	RB	5-11	216	California
4	Chapman, Sean	WR	6-3	205	UCLA
5	Brink, Chuck	B	6-3	300	Wisconsin
6	Boylan, Dera	DB	5-11	195	Louisville
7	Korte, Brad	C	6-2	276	Eastern Illinois
8	Bratton, Jeff	P	6-1	194	Memphis State
8	Taniguchi, Man	DT	6-3	270	Hawaii



needs, including carrying the ball. He is expected to replace Cleveland Gary at fullback, although Gary could move to halfback. Gary rushed for 1,125 yards last year, his best season, but old problems holding onto the ball surfaced by year's end. David Lang also showed potential to become the feature back, a problem area that caused Knox to draft Cal's Russell White with his third pick.

Receiver is also an area of concern because Henry Eliard is finally showing his age after a stellar career. Flipper Anderson caught just 38 passes and the Rams hope second-year man Todd Kinchen can contribute more after returning two punts for touchdowns in the season finale. Fifth-round draft choice Sean LaChapelle of UCLA will get a chance to play, as will backups Jeff Chadwick and Emile



Harry. Eliard caught 47 passes, but only three went for touchdowns for the second year in a row. That Gary was the leading receiver on a team with a big-armed quarterback shows the Rams need help in this department. Knox addressed a problem at tight end with the selection of Penn State's Troy Drayton in the second round. He can provide the combination blocker-receiver the Rams have lacked. He will compete with Jim Price, Pat Carter, and Travis McNeal.

49ERS

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1993

Changes on defense were due regardless of the movement by the free agents. The Rams finished 27th in the league in defense, 27th against the run, and 24th against the pass. No other team finished lower in all categories. This ineptitude was accomplished despite the resurgence of pass-rushing linebacker Kevin Greene and the infusion of young tacklers Sean Gilbert and Marc Bouite. Greene left for Pittsburgh because his talents are better suited to a 3-4 defense. The Rams signed inside linebacker Shane Conlan from Buffalo and can only hope his talents are better suited to a 4-3. They also added defensive end Fred Stokes from Washington and know he can rush the passer in the 4-3. Stokes will line up on the right side with Gerald Robinson on the left and Robert Young looking for action somewhere. Warren Powers, Mike Piel, and Bill Hawkins if he can recover from injury—are the backups.

The addition of linebacker Henry Rolling from San Diego will help fill the spot manned so well by Greene, who for years was the Rams' best defender. Conlan has never played the middle alone before, but Knox thinks he can adjust as Jack Reynolds once did. Roman Phifer is the right linebacker, with Leon White, Fred Strickland, and Scott Stephen in reserve.

Cornerback Darryl Henley is the team's best defensive back, with Todd Lyght and Steve Israel expected to come on strong at the corners. Strong safety Anthony Newman

and Henley had four interceptions apiece. Free safety Pat Terrell was hampered by injury last year. Robert Bailey, Michael Stewart, Chris Crooms, and Courtney Griffin are all vying for backup spots.

The Rams spent an eighth-round draft pick on punter Jeff Buffalo to improve an area of need. Tony Zendejas missed a field goal (he made 15 of 20) after a perfect 1991 season. Kinchen made a splash on punt returns, scoring on two of his four attempts, but the Rams rated last among all special teams in overall competence.



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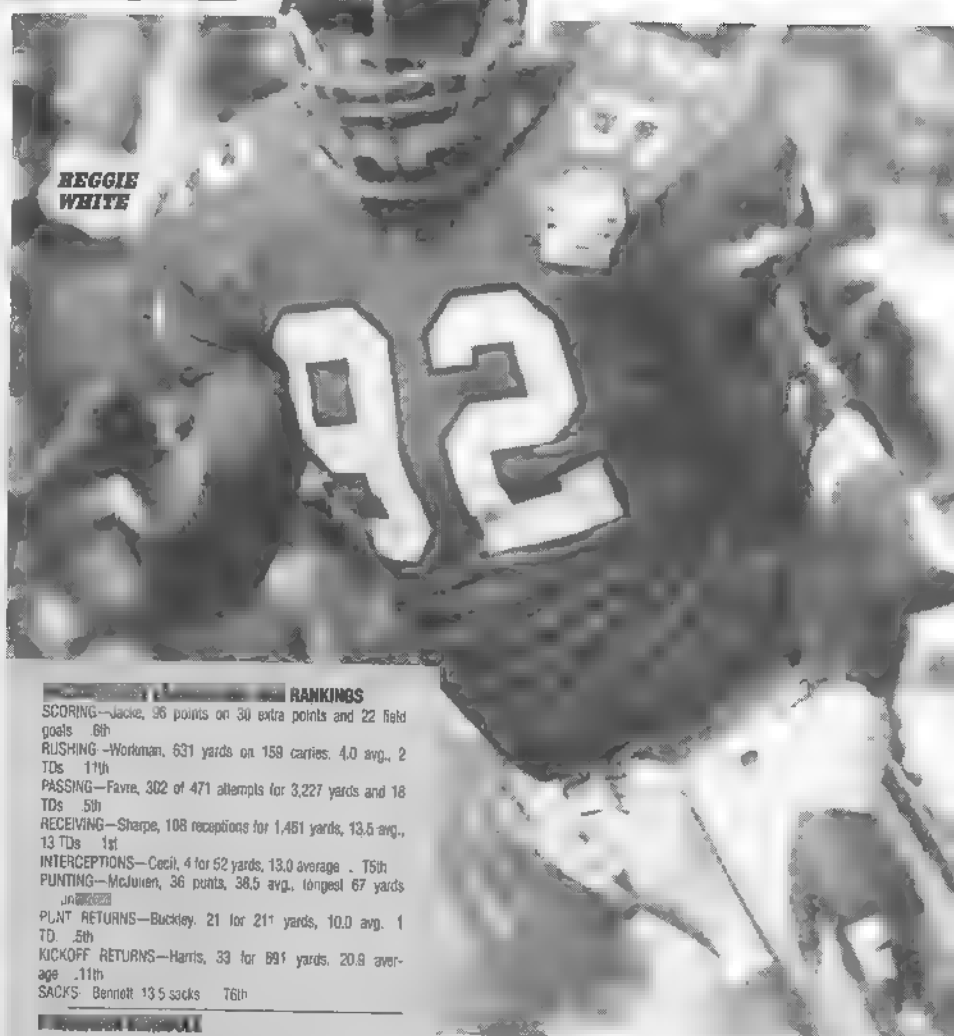
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NFC Central

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Reggie White came to Green Bay and liked what he saw so much that he stayed. There is a bandwagon parked close to Lambeau Field and people are climbing aboard. The Packers are once again fashionable. Despite a disappointing loss to the Vikings in the season finale that kept them out of the playoffs, the Packers won so many friends for their 9-7 record that they are now favored to win the NFC Central Division. Although they still have problems that Reggie White can't fix, they take on one additional burden in coach Mike Holmgren's second season favorites. No longer can the Packers sneak up on teams and keep their fans amused by their effort. They have to win and win now. Otherwise, quarterback Brett Favre is just Don Majkowski with a shorter name and Holmgren is Lindy Infante and 1992 is 1989 all over again. That's when the Packers finished 10-6 and full of promise only to fall flat on their faces.



REGGIE WHITE

RANKINGS

SCORING—Jackie, 36 points on 30 extra points and 22 field goals. 6th
RUSHING—Workman, 631 yards on 158 carries, 4.0 avg., 2 TDs. 11th
PASSING—Favre, 302 of 471 attempts for 3,227 yards and 18 TDs. 5th
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 108 receptions for 1,451 yards, 13.5 avg., 13 TDs. 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Cecil, 4 for 52 yards, 13.0 average. 75th
PUNTING—McJurek, 36 punts, 38.5 avg., longest 67 yards. 11th
PLANT RETURNS—Buckley, 21 for 211 yards, 10.0 avg. 1 TD. 5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harris, 33 for 891 yards, 26.9 average. 11th
SACKS—Bennett, 13.5 sacks. 76th

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

July 31 L.A. Raiders at Canton, OH
August 7 KANSAS CITY at Milwaukee (N)
14 NEW ORLEANS at Madison, WI
20 At New England (N)
27 INDIANAPOLIS, IN

1993 SCHEDULE

		1992 SCORES
September	5 L.A. RAMS at Milwaukee	28-3
	12 PHILADELPHIA	27-24
	19 OPEN DATE	
October	26 At Minnesota	7-27
	3 At Dallas	
	10 DENVER (N)	
	17 OPEN DATE	
	24 At Tampa Bay	3-3
	31 CHICAGO	10-30
November	8 At Kansas City (N)	
	14 At New Orleans	
	21 DETROIT at Milwaukee	38-10
	28 TAMPA BAY	19-14
December	5 At Chicago	17-3
	12 At San Diego (N)	
	19 MINNESOTA at Milwaukee	20-23 (OT)
	26 L.A. RAIDERS	
January	2 At Detroit	27-13

traded 1991 No. 1 choice Vinnie Clark. He lost Pro Bowl safety Chuck Cecil to Phoenix and running back Vince Workman to Tampa Bay, but the net result was more excitement than the magical season of 1989 generated.

White was offered more money to play in Green Bay (\$17 million over four years) than to play anywhere else. He also said he liked the

quarterback, just like everybody else. Favre was outstanding in his first season as a starter. After taking over against Cincinnati in the third game after an ankle injury sidelined Majkowski, Favre never looked back. His passer rating of 85.3 placed him sixth in the league, right ahead of Dan Marino, and his season didn't end until he had earned a trip to Hawaii for the Pro Bowl—all at age 23. His accomplishments were eerily similar to Majkowski's 1989 season. The pickup of O'Brien was a masterstroke. Few quarterbacks are equipped with the knowledge, attitude, and arm O'Brien can provide for a team with a young starter. If needed, he will lend a steady hand to the huddle while helping Favre and young prospects Ty Detmer and Mark Brunell.

Sterling Sharpe is coming off the most productive season ever for a receiver. His 108 catches broke Art Monk's record and put the Favre-to-Sharpe combination in the same league as Steve Young to Jerry Rice. That Sharpe was able to accomplish this without significant help on the other side was all the more remarkable. Sanjay Beach was the next most productive wideout, catching only 17 passes. Ron Lewis, who became the starter, caught 13. The development of Jackie Harris



Retrospect shows the Packers really weren't very good back then, and there was no free agency to help them improve. They signed more Plan B players than any other team, but Reggie White never showed up on any Plan B lists. Their 1990 draft wasn't immediately productive and their 1991 draft was a wipeout except for one key maneuver. They traded down for an extra No. 1 draft choice in 1992. Enter general manager Ron Wolf, who knows how to wheel and deal extra draft choices. He sent the gift to Atlanta for Favre and used his own No. 1 to take cornerback Terrell Buckley. The bandwagon wasn't rolling yet, but the wheels were on.

White wasn't the only free agent the Packers signed, although he would have been enough in the eyes of the faithful. Wolf signed nose tackle Bill Maas from Kansas City, guard Harry Galbreath from Miami, tackle Tunch Ilkin from Pittsburgh, and safety Mike Prior from Indianapolis. He traded for running back John Stephens from New England and for quarterback Ken O'Brien from the Jets. He dumped 1989 No. 1 draft choice Tony Mandarich and

into an all-pro-caliber tight end gave the passing attack balance. Harris caught 55 passes, second in the NFL to the Cowboys' Jay Novacek among tight ends. His blocking also established him as a future star at the position. Ed West, an even better blocker, is the second tight end.

Stephens has the chance to make a significant contribution in the backfield. After an excellent rookie season with the Patriots in 1988, Stephens declined to 277 yards last year and became expendable. Still talented, he steps into a void in Green Bay where 1990 first-round choice Darrell Thompson and second-year prospects Edgar Bennett and Dexter McNabb also have an opportunity. Veteran Harry Sydney lends stability.

The addition of Galbreath and Ilkin to the offensive line provides options the Packers haven't had for some time. The return of the injured Rich Moran also helps. Ilkin and Tootie Robbins will line up at right tackle, with Galbreath and Ron Hallstrom at right guard and Moran at left guard. James Campen is the center and Ken Ruettgers the left tackle. Frank Winters, Tom Neville, Cecil Gray, and Joe Sims will compete for backup spots.

White anchors a defensive line that sorely needed him. He will start on the left side where Matt Brock performed capably last year and could move to Robert Brown's right side. Maas is the nose tackle, with John Jurkovic, who gave up his No. 92 to White, and Alfred Oglesby in reserve.

Problems at inside linebacker will force changes as the careers of Johnny Holand and Mark D'Onofrio are in doubt following serious operations. Holand is recovering from

neck surgery and D'Onofrio from hamstring surgery and neither is expected to contribute early in the year. The drafting of Wayne Simmons will enable George Koonce to move inside with Brian Noble and Burnell Dent. Bryce Paup also is a possibility inside. Paup was the team's second-leading sacker behind outside linebacker Tony Bennett, who had 13½ and is rapidly becoming a star. The line had only nine as a unit, led by Brock's four, and will welcome White, the only NFL player who has more sacks than games played.

Terrell Buckley started slowly as a confident rookie cornerback but showed flashes before the season was over. Already, he is one of the best cover corners in the league. The Packers traded up to get Alabama's George Teague with the intention of lining him up at right corner with Roland Mitchell. Strong safety LeRoy Butler is a fixture and Prior is expected to replace Cecil at free safety with Tim Hauck and rookies Doug Evans and Tim Watson competing for roster spots.

Chris Jacke is one of the league's best place-kickers and Bryan Wagner salvaged the punt teams. Second-year men Robert Brooks, Corey Harris, and Buckley are expected to improve the return teams. Buckley proved he is dangerous once he makes sure he catches the ball.

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pr.	ht	wt	age	college
43	Winston Jesse	TE	6-7	255	27	Mississippi St.
74	Archibald Lesar	DE	6-5	271	26	Stanford
67	Barnes Michael	TE	6-2	270	21	Alabama
82	Bell Sidney	WR	6-1	144	27	Colorado State
60	Beggs Tony	C	6-1	296	25	Florida A&M
34	Bell Edgar	RB	6-1	173	24	Florida State
90	Bennett Tony	LB	6-2	241	26	Missouri
35	Berry John	RB	5-10	196	26	Illinois
97	Bethune George	DE	6-4	256	26	Alabama
51	Blythe Jeff	LB	6-5	235	25	Kentucky
62	Brock Matt	DE	6-5	290	27	Oregon
87	Brock Robert	WR	6-0	171	23	South Carolina
93	Brown Robert	DE	6-3	280	33	Virginia Tech
27	Buckley Terrell	CB	5-9	154	22	Florida State
36	Burke Jeff	S	6-0	170	25	Florida State
63	Campen James	C	6-2	290	29	Texas
2	Campbell	CB	5-9	191	24	Texas Tech
29	Cheney Mark	TE	6-5	240	24	Boise State
55	Cheney Jeff	LB	6-1	226	25	Washington
49	Crowe Terry	LB	6-2	240	25	Washington
99	Davis Don	DE	6-4	280	25	Washington
56	Dent Burnell	LB	6-3	238	24	Tulane
11	Dennett Ty	QB	6-0	181	26	BYU
68	Dish Mark	DE	6-2	232	24	Penn State
4	Dobson	QB	6-2	220	24	Southern Miss
78	Galbreath Harry	G	6-1	271	28	Tennessee
70	Grant David	NT	6-4	315	28	Washington
71	Gray Tom	T	6-4	291	25	North Carolina
65	Hallstrom Ron	C	6-6	311	34	Nebraska
30	Harris Corey	S	6-1	194	24	Georgia Tech
80	Haskins Mike	TE	6-3	243	25	Nebraska
24	Holman	S	5-10	181	27	Alabama
81	Holman Chris	WR	6-1	180	25	Tennessee
50	Holman Jeffery	LB	6-2	235	28	Tennessee
79	Ilkin	T	6-7	271	30	Nebraska
88	Ilkin Jeffery	TE	6-2	250	27	California
13	Jurkovic John	K	6-4	191	27	UTEP
64	Koonce George	NT	6-2	300	26	Eastern Illinois
53	Koonce George	B	6-1	230	25	East Carolina
28	Kyle Tom	WR	6-1	191	25	Howard
85	LeRoy	WR	5-11	181	25	Florida State
77	Maas	NT	6-5	275	31	Penn State
7	Maas John	QB	6-1	203	29	Virginia
23	McClung Jeff	CB	6-1	185	27	Cincinnati
83	Moran Rich	WR	5-10	175	24	Washington
44	Murphy	FB	6-1	145	24	Nebraska
47	Noble Brian	CB	5-10	192	29	Texas Tech
57	Noble Brian	T	6-4	290	31	South Carolina
6	Nugent Tom	S	6-5	256	24	Florida State
9	Nugent Tom	LB	6-4	250	27	Alabama
8	Oglesby	QB	6-4	212	33	California
98	Oglesby Alfred	NT	6-6	280	26	Howard
96	Patterson Brian	J	6-5	272	29	Alabama State
95	Paup Bryce	LB	6-4	247	25	Northern Iowa
54	Paup Bryce	S	6-0	210	30	Nebraska
73	Roberts	LB	6-1	251	31	Boise State
72	Roberts	T	6-6	296	31	East Carolina
22	Roberts	CB	6-0	180	27	Southern Cal
84	Roberts	WR	6-1	235	29	Florida State
94	Roberts	DE	6-6	277	25	Nebraska
66	Roberts	T	6-3	294	24	Nebraska
69	Roberts	OL	6-7	298	26	Nebraska
32	Roberts	RB	6-1	165	27	Nebraska
42	Roberts	FB	6-0	202	26	Kansas
39	Roberts	FB	6-0	202	26	Nebraska
9	Roberts	P	6-1	201	31	California
86	Roberts	TE	6-4	242	22	Nebraska
38	Roberts	S	6-0	216	29	Florida
92	Roberts	DE	6-5	295	32	Tennessee
29	Roberts	RB	6-1	170	25	Virginia
20	Roberts	FB	6-1	245	24	Texas A&M
52	Roberts	OL	6-3	290	29	Western Illinois

DRAFTED

rd	name	pr.	ht	wt	college
1	Simmons Wayne	LB	6-2	236	Clemson
2	Simmons Wayne	FS	6-0	185	Alabama
3	Simmons Wayne	OT	6-3	315	Texas A&M
4	Simmons Wayne	OT	6-1	208	Washington
5	Simmons Wayne	LB	6-3	230	Auburn
6	Simmons Wayne	CB	6-1	195	Washington
7	Simmons Wayne	OT	6-4	349	Western Michigan
8	Simmons Wayne	DE	6-2	214	Howard
9	Simmons Wayne	DE	6-5	270	Navy





CHRIS DOLEMAN



JIM McMAHON

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

In his first year as head coach of the Vikings Dennis Green won the NFC Central Division title. It was an impressive thing to do, considering he had taken over an 8-8 team with no apparent reason for improving to 11-5. What might Green be expected to do with a quarterback? That's the question Minnesota fans would like to see answered now that Jim McMahon has arrived via free agency. But the question that haunts them more is how long McMahon will last. There is no question he is a quarterback with the skills and track record to get this team over the hump, but he has been plagued by such a variety of injuries that few

observers believe the 34-year-old warrior can last a season. The Vikings figure it's worth the chance. After all, they gambled and lost last year with Rich Gannon and Sean Salisbury. Why not gamble with a proven winner?

Although the Vikings were 7-1 within the division, they were 4-5 outside it—counting the playoffs. They were 0-3 against the NFC East and 0-4 against fellow NFC playoff teams. The only NFC Central Division quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl is, of course, McMahon. He did it with the 1985 Bears. The Vikings chose to concentrate on what he does when he is on the field rather than dwell on the times when he is injured. McMahon's record against NFC Central Division teams is 27-5. Against the Packers, he is 8-1.

The Vikings were so intent on upgrading their quarterback situation that they didn't do much else to help themselves. They lost two starting offensive linemen and failed to replace them before the draft, when most of the desirable free agents were signed. Given McMahon's health history, leaving him vulnerable behind a thinned offensive line is really rolling the dice. Behind McMahon, the Vikings like the future of Brad Johnson, who didn't play as a rookie. They also drafted Heisman Trophy winner Gino Torretta from Miami in the seventh round for protection. They signed Salisbury, preferring his future as a backup rather than Gannon's.

VIKINGS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Revaiz, 102 points on 45 extra points and 19 field goals.

RUSHING—Allen, 1,201 yards on 266 carries, 4.5 avg., 13 TDs.

PASSING—Garmon, 159 of 279 attempts for 1,905 yards and 12 TDs.

RECEIVING—Carler, 53 receptions for 661 yards, 12.8 avg., 6 TDs.

INTERCEPTIONS—McMillan, 8 for 157 yards, 19.6 avg., 2 TDs.

PUNTING—Newsome, 72 punts, 45.0 avg., longest 84 yards.

PLANT RETURNS—Parker, 33 for 336 yards, 10.2 average.

KICKOFF RETURNS—Nelson, 29 for 626 yards, 21.6 average.

SACKS—Doleman, 14.5 sacks.

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

- 31 At Dallas (N)
- 7 Buffalo at Berlin, Germany
- 14 SEATTLE (N)
- 21 At Kansas City (N)
- 26 PITTSBURGH (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

1993 SCHEDULE	1992 SCORES
Sept. 7	at Dallas 10-17
Sept. 14	at Buffalo 17-10
Sept. 21	at Seattle 17-10
Sept. 28	at Kansas City 17-10
Oct. 5	at Pittsburgh 17-10
Oct. 12	at Minnesota 17-10
Oct. 19	at Chicago 17-10
Oct. 26	at Detroit 17-10
Nov. 2	at Cleveland 17-10
Nov. 9	at Cincinnati 17-10
Nov. 16	at Baltimore 17-10
Nov. 23	at Tampa Bay 17-10
Nov. 30	at New Orleans 17-10
Dec. 7	at Washington 17-10

Team speed is a priority. Drafting trackmen Robert Smith from Ohio State and Qadry Ismail from Syracuse in the first two rounds was an admission the Vikings had grown slow. Smith is a running back coming out early after a checkered two-year career at Ohio State. Although he is projected by some as a receiver, Green sees him as a change of pace from

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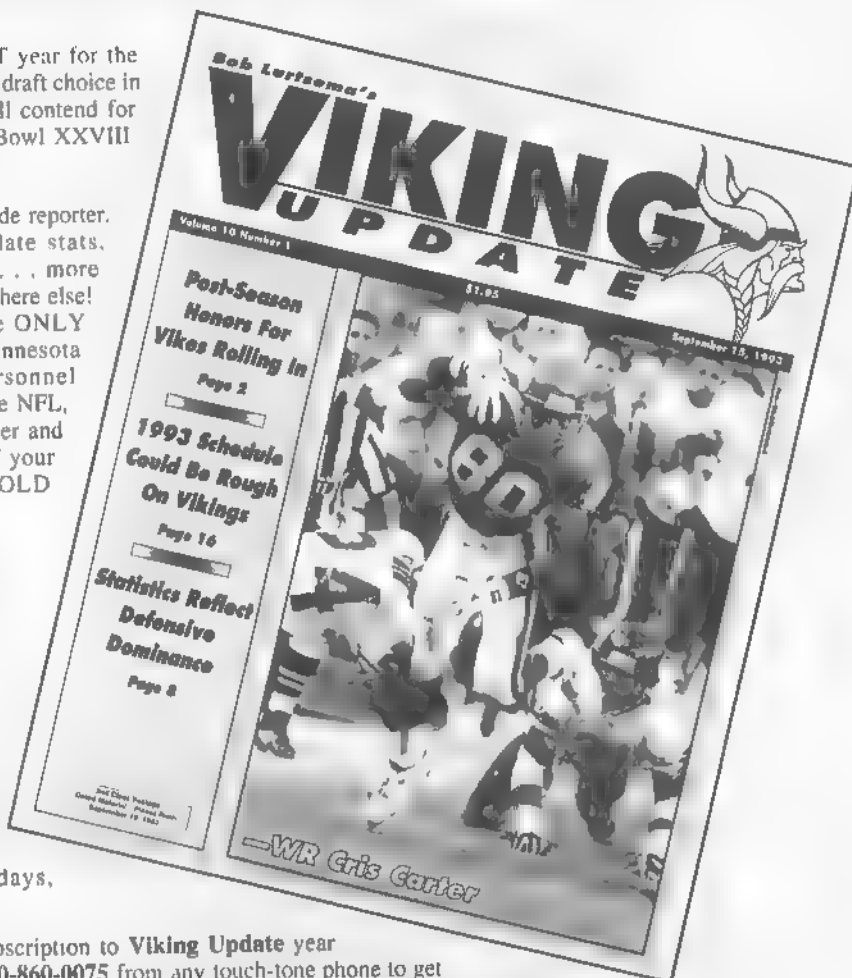
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Terry Allen, an unsung hero of the offense Allen set a team rushing record with 1,201 yards, breaking the mark held by Chuck Foreman. Allen was a 1990 ninth-round choice who came through like a first-rounder on a team that never needed Herschel Walker after all. Allen and veteran Roger Craig combined for 1,617 yards, setting a Vikings' record for a



tandem. Smith is the primary backup, with veteran Keith Henderson also available.

Ismail will fit immediately into a receiving corps that got old and slow. In the first six games, wide receivers scored 12 touchdowns. In the last 11 games, they scored one. Anthony Carter, Hassan Jones, and Cris Carter all are good receivers who lack speed. Anthony Carter passed Sammy White as the Vikings' all-time leading receiver in yards and tight end Steve Jordan extended his club record in receptions to 439, but neither is the touchdown threat he once was, each scoring only two. The Vikings really fell off when Cris Carter suffered a broken collarbone and missed the last four games. They are hoping third-year man Jake Reed will emerge, but he has caught only six passes in his first two years, so there is plenty of room for Ismail. They also signed former Kansas City free agent Stephone Pargie in hopes he has something left. Behind Jordan, the Vikings had Mike Tice and Brent Novoselsky, who caught

nine passes between them last season.

On the line, the Vikings start two all-pros, two question marks, and 35-year-old Tim Irwin. The left side is the most solid in football with tackle Gary Zimmerman and guard Randall McDaniel perennial candidates for honors. McDaniel is the consensus best guard in football. When he lines up in the backfield as a lead blocker, his athletic skills become obvious. After losing center Kirk Lowdermilk to Indianapolis in free agency, the Vikings hope veteran backup Adam Schreiber comes through. In nine years with five teams, he has made a total of 13 starts. At right guard, the Vikings lost Brian Habib to Denver, but they expect the injured Todd Kalis to reclaim his former job. Third-rounder John Gerak will shore up a thin area. The inexperienced Scott Adams backed up both tackles and Mike Morris and Bernard Dafney are reserves. Irwin is a solid pro who has started every game since taking over for Ron Yary in 1982.

Keyed by a line coached by John Teerlinck, the Vikings' defense coordinated by Tony Dungy set a team record by returning six interceptions and two fumbles for touchdowns. The Vikings led the league in interceptions with 28 and the NFC in takeaways with 42. The main reason was the quick pressure up front from tackles Henry Thomas and John Randle and end Chris Doleman, who combined for 32 sacks. They also got nine from end Al Noga, who defected to Washington. The Vikings expect second-year men Robert Harris and Roy Barker to take up Noga's slack.

Middle linebacker Jack Del Rio arrived from Dallas via Plan B and led the Vikings in tackles. He also registered two sacks and two interceptions, providing more versatility than



normal at the position. Left linebacker Carlos Jenkins started for the first time and scored twice on returns. Right linebacker Mike Merrweather was second in tackles at age 32. Former starter Ray Berry is expected back from injury. The other backups are Ed McDaniel and David Bavaro.

Audray McMillian shared the league lead with eight interceptions in a superior year, convincing former starter Najee Mustafa

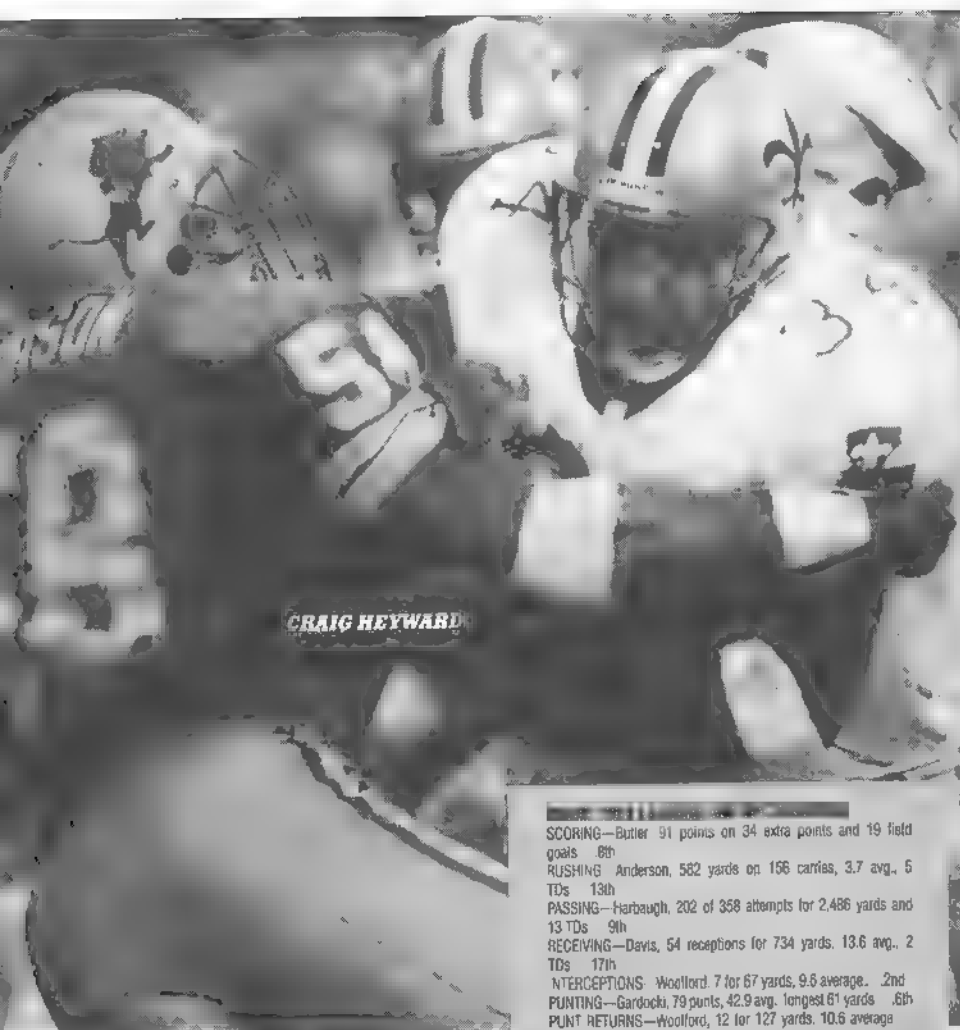
(Reggie Rutland) to go to Cleveland. To back up McMillian and Carl Lee, the Vikings added Jayce Pearson and Izell Jenkins to Anthony Parker. At strong safety, Todd Scott was outstanding in replacing Joey Browner, getting five interceptions and finishing third in tackles. Vencie Glenn ended up at free safety, with David Wilson in reserve.

Fuad Reveiz hit three of four field goals from 50-plus yards but missed two from 20-29. Harry Newsome led the NFC in gross punting with a 45-yard average, including a league-long of 84 yards. Anthony Parker was a top 10 punt returner, but the Vikings will miss Darrin Nelson's kickoff returns.

VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Adams, Scott	OL	6-5	281	27	Georgia
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	197	25	Clemson
92	Barker, Roy	DT	6-4	292	24	North Carolina
52	Bavaro, David	LB	6-0	228	26	Syracuse
50	Berry, Ray	LB	6-2	230	30	Baylor
67	Boyd, Tracy	OT	6-4	296	26	Elizabeth City St.
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	161	33	Michigan
80	Carter, Cris	WR	6-3	197	28	Ohio State
62	Charley, Jeff	C	6-3	269	24	Pittsburgh
94	Conover, Frank	DT	6-5	325	25	Syracuse
33	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	219	33	Nebraska
77	Cripepper, Brad	DT	6-1	267	25	Florida
75	Dafney, Bernard	G	6-5	317	24	Tennessee
55	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	250	30	Southern Cal
79	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	350	24	Arizona State
58	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	275	32	Pittsburgh
49	Evans, Pat	TE	6-6	261	24	Minnesota
29	Evans, Chuck	RB	6-1	217	26	Clark
43	Fisher, Julie	TE	6-2	235	25	East Carolina
76	Freeman, Lorenzo	DT	6-2	240	25	Pittsburgh
40	Gaddis, Mike	RB	6-0	217	24	Oklahoma
16	Gannon, Rich	QB	6-3	208	28	Delaware
25	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	189	29	Indiana State
37	Graham, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	206	28	Livingston
99	Harris, James	DE	6-4	275	25	Tampa
90	Harris, Robert	DE	6-4	265	24	Southern
30	Henderson, Keith	RB	6-1	230	27	Georgia
96	Hinkle, George	DT	6-5	288	28	Arizona
53	Holmes, Bruce	LB	6-2	237	28	Minnesota
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	297	35	Tennessee
51	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	219	25	Michigan State
28	Jenkins, Izell	CB	5-10	190	29	N.C. State
14	Johnson, Brad	QB	6-4	218	23	Florida State
63	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	240	32	Brown
69	Kalis, Todd	G	6-5	281	28	Arizona State
39	Lee, Carl	CB	5-11	192	32	Marshall
45	Lemmon, Tony	TE	6-4	235	24	E. Washington
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB	5-11	232	24	Clemson
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	280	29	Arizona State
9	McMillian, Jim	DB	6-1	195	34	BYU
26	McMillian, Audray	CB	6-0	190	31	Houston
66	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	273	32	N.E. Missouri St.
18	Newsome, Harry	P	6-0	185	30	Wake Forest
85	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-2	237	27	Pennsylvania
82	Pargie, Stephone	WR	6-2	188	32	Fresno State
27	Parker, Anthony	CB	5-10	179	27	Arizona State
23	Pearson, Jayce	CB	5-11	186	30	Washington
93	Randle, John	DT	6-1	270	28	Texas A&I
19	Randolph, Joe	WR	5-7	155	22	Elon
86	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	220	26	Grambling
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	226	30	Tennessee
12	Salsbury, Sean	QB	6-5	217	30	Southern Cal
38	Scott, Todd	S	5-10	191	25	SW Louisiana
63	Smith, Dayle	OT	6-6	276	29	Tennessee
46	Tennell, Derek	TE	6-2	250	29	UCLA
97	Thomas, Henry	DT	6-2	285	28	LSU
8	Watkins, Slip	WR	5-9	173	26	LSU
32	Walborne, Trip	S	6-0	205	25	Michigan
35	West, Ronnie	WR	6-1	215	25	Pittsburgh St.
24	Wilson, David	S	5-10	192	23	California
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	32	Oregon

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Smith, Robert	RB	6-0	195	Ohio State
2	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	192	Syracuse
3	Gerak, John	G	6-4	276	Penn State
3	Brown, Gilbert	DT	6-2	337	Kansas
4	Sheppard, Ashley	LB	6-3	258	Clemson
5	Lindsay, Everett	DT	6-4	282	Mississippi
7	Torretta, Gino	QB	6-2	211	Miami



CRAIG HEYWARD

SCORING—Butler 91 points on 34 extra points and 19 field goals. 8th
RUSHING—Anderson, 582 yards on 166 carries, 3.7 avg., 5 TDs. 13th
PASSING—Harbaugh, 202 of 358 attempts for 2,486 yards and 13 TDs. 9th
RECEIVING—Davis, 54 receptions for 734 yards, 13.6 avg., 2 TDs. 17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodford, 7 for 67 yards, 9.6 average. 2nd
PUNTING—Gardocki, 79 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 61 yards. 6th
PUNT RETURNS—Woodford, 12 for 127 yards, 10.6 average
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 23 for 511 yards, 22.2 avg., 1 TD. 5th
SACKS—McMichael, 10.5 sacks. 78th

Rank	Team
August	8 At Philadelphia (N)
	14 PHOENIX (N)
	23 At New Orleans (N)
	27 DALLAS (N)

Month	Rank	Team	Score
September	5	N.Y. Giants	14-27
	12	At Minnesota	20-21
	19	OPEN DATE	
	26	TAMPA BAY	31-14
October	3	ATLANTA	
	10	At Philadelphia	
	17	OPEN DATE	
	25	MINNESOTA (N)	10-38
	31	At Green Bay	30-10
November	7	L.A. RAIDERS	
	14	At San Diego (N)	
	21	At Kansas City	
	25	At Detroit	3-16
December	5	GREEN BAY	3-17
	12	At Tampa Bay	7-20
	16	DENVER	
	26	DETROIT	27-24
January	2	At L.A. Rams	

"Ironhead" Heyward from the New Orleans Saints provide a glimpse of a future similar to that of the Cowboys. It will be a fundamental offense with an emphasis on power and speed. Harbaugh is a durable, hard-working player whose interception against the Vikings helped turn a 20-0 fourth-quarter lead into a 21-20 defeat that marked the beginning of the end for Ditka. It led to Harbaugh's eventual benching in favor of P.T. Willis and rookie W.I.

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
79	Age, Louis	T	6-7	350	23	SW Louisiana
35	Anderson, Neal	RB	5-11	215	29	Florida
93	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	265	28	Florida
70	Auzenne, Troy	T	6-7	290	24	California
89	Blackwell, Kelly	TE	6-1	255	24	TCU
	Blaylock, Tony	CB	5-10	190	28	Winston-Salem
62	Bortz, Mark	G	6-6	282	32	Iowa
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	190	31	Georgia
92	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	233	29	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	192	25	Southern Cal
44	Christian, Bob	RB	5-10	225	25	Northwestern
96	Cooper, Reggie	LB	6-2	215	25	Nebraska
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	25	Fresno State
82	Davis, Wendell	WR	5-11	188	27	LSU
95	Dent, Richard	DE	6-5	265	33	Tennessee State
37	Douglass, Maurice	CB	5-11	202	29	Kentucky
24	Fain, Richard	CB	5-10	180	25	Florida
67	Fontenot, Jerry	G/C	6-3	287	27	Texas A&M
2	Furrer, Wil	QB	6-3	209	25	Virginia Tech
17	Gardocki, Chris	P/K	6-1	196	23	Clemson
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	202	31	Ohio State
29	Gentry, Dennis	WR	5-8	180	34	Baylor
31	Green, Mark	RB	5-11	190	26	Notre Dame
4	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	215	29	Michigan
	Heyward, Craig	FB	5-11	280	27	Pittsburgh
85	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-4	260	27	Clemson
53	Jones, Dante	LB	6-1	238	28	Oklahoma
64	Jurkovic, Miro	G	6-3	290	23	Notre Dame
94	Kmet, Frank	DL	6-3	289	23	Purdue
88	Kozlowski, Glen	WR	6-1	210	31	BYU
58	Laue, Larry	C	6-2	290	24	Colorado
33	Lewis, Darren	RB	5-10	225	25	Texas A&M
39	Lincoln, Jeremy	CB	5-10	184	24	Tennessee
26	Mangum, John	CB	5-10	178	26	Alabama
76	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	268	35	Texas
81	Morgan, Anthony	WR	6-1	195	26	Tennessee
84	Morris, Ron	WR	6-1	198	29	SMU
51	Morrissey, Jim	LB	6-3	225	31	Michigan State
36	Paul, Markus	S	6-2	200	27	Syracuse
91	Paulk, Tim	LB	6-1	230	25	Florida
72	Perry, William	DT	6-2	335	31	Clemson
69	Rivers, Ron	LB	6-3	234	31	California
55	Roper, John	LB	6-1	235	28	Texas A&M
93	Ryan, Tim	DT	6-4	265	26	Southern Cal
52	Schwartz, Jim	LB	6-2	232	23	Purdue
80	Spellman, Antonio	DE	6-4	282	22	Ohio State
32	Stinson, Emanuel	CB	5-9	180	27	Texas Tech
49	Tate, David	S	6-0	204	29	Colorado
57	Thayer, Tom	G	6-4	284	32	Notre Dame
60	Thomas, Stan	T	6-5	295	25	Texas
78	Van Horne, Keith	T	6-6	290	36	Southern Cal
87	Waddle, Tom	WR	6-0	185	26	Boston College
86	Wagner, Barry	WR	6-3	220	26	Alabama A&M
71	Williams, James	DT	6-7	340	25	Cheyney State
10	Willis, Peter Tom	QB	6-2	204	26	Florida State
73	Wojciechowski, John	G	6-4	280	30	Michigan State
21	Woodford, Cornell	CB	5-9	185	27	Clemson
83	Wright, Eric	WR	6-0	203	24	Stephen F. Austin
97	Zorn, Chris	DT	6-1	284	24	Notre Dame

PLAYERS

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Conway, Curtis	WR	6-0	185	Southern Cal
2	Simpson, Carl	DE	6-2	280	Florida State
3	Geedey, Chris	TE	6-5	254	Syracuse
4	Perry, Todd	LB	6-5	292	Kentucky
4	Baker, Myron	LB	6-1	224	Louisiana Tech
4	Fontenot, Albert	DE	6-4	253	Baylor
6	Holliman, Dave	LB	6-1	226	Washington
7	Johnson, Keshon	CB	5-10	172	Arizona



JIM HARBAUGH

threat regardless of whether he makes a lot of catches. Starters Wendell Davis and Tom Waddles are similar tough receivers who get open and catch everything, but their combined 100 receptions last year resulted in only six touchdowns. Anthony Morgan is a deep threat who averaged 23 yards on his 14 receptions, but he has been hampered by a knee injury. After losing tight end James Thornton to the Jets, the position is open to Keith Jennings and Kelly Blackwell to fill, with third-rounder Chris Gedney also a factor.

The offensive line is counting on the coaching touch of Tony Wise, whose work with the Cowboys was a huge reason for their suc-



CURTIS CONWAY

Furrer as Ditka groped for answers. Harbaugh is clearly the best quarterback.

Wannstedt also made an early commitment to running back Neal Anderson, who spent the last two years in Ditka's doghouse and dwindled from 1,078 yards in 1990 to 747 in '91 and 582 a year ago. At age 29, he still has the speed Wannstedt loves, but Ditka questioned his ability to run effectively inside. The addition of Heyward should correct any problems inside. The 300-pounder from New Orleans is a remarkable athlete, capable of amazing performances on the field and at the

dinner table. The Bears have experience with such athletes in the person of William "The Refrigerator" Perry. Heyward exchanged pieces with Brad Muster, an effective but completely different type of player. Darren Lewis was effective in relief of Anderson and Mark Green is a dependable reserve.

Conway's speed should make the entire offense more effective. A college track man, Conway is a former quarterback who came out early and lacks experience at wide receiver. But he will provide immediate help as a kick returner and instant problems as a deep

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GREEN BAY PACKERS

1993 MEDIA GUIDE

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cess. The Bears are aging and injured where they once were solid and healthy. Left tackle Troy Auzenne started every game as a rookie. Left guard Mark Bortz is fighting various injuries in his 11th season. Center Jerry Fontenot was outstanding as a replacement for Jay Hogenberg. Right guard Tom Thayer's future is in doubt after back surgery, so second-year man Jay Leeuwenburg will get a look. Right tackle Keith Van Horne starts his 13th season. Wise will try to get 1991 No. 1 choice Stan Thomas on the field and develop 340-350-pound projects Louis Age and James Williams. John Wojciechowski is a valuable backup at guard and tackle.

Wannstedt loves to rotate defensive linemen and appears to have plenty of bodies to use provided Richard Dent resolves a contract dispute. Dent could share time with last year's No. 1 rookie Alonzo Spellman, at right end. Left end Trace Armstrong looks like a fixture and 35-year-old tackle Steve McMichael is coming off a 10½-sack season that was his second-best in 13 years. The overweight Perry is coming off knee surgery and is now 31 years old, so his play could be limited by the use of young Chris Zorich and Tim Ryan and the addition of rookie Carl Simpson.

The Bears lost middle linebacker Mike Singletary to retirement, but they like Dante Jones, who waited patiently for five years to start. If Wannstedt's plan to use Jones inside and Ron Cox and Seattle pickup Joe Cain outside pans out, the linebacking trio will have 10 career starts among them. But Wannstedt prefers

speed to experience. Cox hasn't been able to stay healthy enough to beat out steady veterans Ron Rivera or Jim Morrissey. Cain was a backup with the Seahawks. John Roper dropped from eight to two sacks as the starting left linebacker and will compete if signed.

The addition of cornerback Tony Blaylock



from San Diego will tighten up a secondary where left corner Donnell Woolford is on the verge of all-pro status. He started every game for the first time and finished second in the NFC with seven interceptions. Lem Stinson, Jeremy Lincoln, and Richard Fain will compete for reserve spots. At free safety, Mark Carrier seeks to regain his rookie form, when he made 10 interceptions. Two years ago, he

made two interceptions and last year, he had none. Strong safety Shaun Gayle is one of the best when injury-free. Markus Paul and converted corner John Mangum are backups.

Kicker Kevin Butler and punter Chris Gardocki went to the same Georgia high school at different times and combine to give the Bears a formidable tandem. Butler holds the NFL record of 24 field goals in a row. Gardocki's 42.9-yard gross average was the best in 25 years in Chicago. Conway needs to improve the punt-return area. Darren Lewis finished among the top 10 kickoff-return men.



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NFC Central

BARRY SANDERS

LIONS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hanson, 93 points on 30 extra points and 21 field goals 17th
RUSHING—Sanders, 1,352 yards on 312 carries, 4.3 avg., 9 TDs 2nd
PASSING—Peete, 123 of 213 attempts for 1,702 yards and 9 TDs unranked
RECEIVING—Pettiman, 69 receptions for 810 yards, 11.7 avg., 4 TDs 5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Crockett, 4 for 50 yards, 12.5 average 15th
PUNTING—Arnold, 65 punts, 43.8 avg., longest 71 yards 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 18 for 175 yards, 9.7 avg., 1 TD unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 42 for 1,006 yards, 24.0 avg., 1 TD 3rd
SACKS—Scroggins, 7.5 sacks 12th

1993 SCHEDULE

July	30	AT BUFFALO (N)
August	8	Dallas at London, England
	16	At Houston (N)
	20	CINCINNATI (N)
	27	At New Orleans (N)

		1992 SCORES
September	5	AT ANTA
	12	At New England
	19	At New Orleans
	26	PHOENIX
October	3	At Tampa Bay
	10	OPEN DATE
	17	SEA-TLE
	24	At L.A. Rams
	31	At Minnesota
November	7	TAMPA BAY
	14	OPEN DATE
	21	Green Bay at Milwaukee
	25	CHICAGO
December	5	MINNESOTA
	12	At Phoenix
	19	SAN FRANCISCO
	26	At Chicago
January	2	GREEN BAY

UNFINIT LIONS

From first to worst is a short trip in the NFC Central Division, as the Lions painfully discovered in 1992. Their consolation is that the trip back can be just as quick because there are no dominant Bears or Vikings or Packers teams who are clear favorites anymore.

"We had a poor record, but we weren't a bad football team," coach Wayne Fontes said.

Hoping poor luck is behind them, the Lions jumped into free agency with open arms and landed three starting offensive linemen in Dave Lutz, Bill Fralic, and Dave Richards. They made runs at Reggie White and Derrick Thomas and for one day, courted Joe Montana. Not satisfied at coming in second-best, they traded for New Orleans pass rusher Pat Swilling on draft draft to fill a long-time need. They are determined to prove that 1992 was the fluke, not 1991, when they beat the Dallas Cowboys to get into the NFC championship game. A fifth-place schedule will help, with New England, Phoenix twice, and Seattle joining the usual division suspects. Only the

Packers, Vikings, Saints, and 49ers had winning records among their 1992 opponents.

But of all the holes that got filled, quarterback remains the potential gap ng pitfall. The pass at Montana was an afterthought precipitated by Montana in an apparent attempt to drive up the price with Kansas City. The Lions backed out as soon as they got in. They had other problems at the time. Fontes promised to name a starting quarterback by training camp. Rodney Peete can't shake the injury bug and Andre Ware finally showed some promise at the end of the year, starting the final three games. Neither has proven he is the answer. When the Lions won the division, Erik Kramer was at the controls. He no longer is a factor, but his success in 1991 makes the Lions think that both Peete and Ware have the ability to come through. Peete's 80 passer rating coming off a 1991 Achilles' heel injury was impressive, and he was so beat up behind a patchwork line at the beginning of last season that it is unfair and premature to give up on him. Ware, the No. 1 draft choice in 1990, started the final three games and threw three touchdown passes and four interceptions. He also became the Lions' second-leading rusher, with 124 yards in just 20 scrambles.

When quarterbacks and offensive lines and all else fails, the Lions still have Barry Sanders. He finished fourth in the league in rushing with 1,352 yards, 48 more than he gained when he led the league in 1990. But the yards



MEL GRAY

are getting tougher every year. As a rookie, he averaged 5.3 yards a carry. It was 5.1 his second year, 4.5 his third, 4.3 last year. As the numbers go down, Sanders' reputation stays steady. It is not his fault that tragedy decimated the offensive line or that changes in offensive philosophy continue to tear at continuity. The Lions must decide whether they are a run-and-shoot team. Offensive coordinator Dan

Henning is an advocate of light-end power football on a team that rescued tight end Rodney Holman from Cincinnati's scrap heap. To back up Sanders, who never gets a rest, the Lions added Dallas castoff Curvin Richards.

The emergence of Herman Moore into a big-play wide receiver was the most pleasant development for the 1992 offense. His spectacular catches helped make Ware's job look easy. With an average of 18.9 yards per catch, Moore belies the notion that he is a possession receiver without deep speed. He is the whole package, nicely complemented by speedy Brett Perriman, who led the team in receptions for the second year in a row. The Lions consider Perriman, return man Mel Gray, and Swilling "gifts" from the Saints. Willie Green led the team in touchdown catches with five, but Reggie Barrett caught only four passes all year, not a good sign in a four-receiver set. The Lions expect more from him.



The Lions' No. 1 priority of the offseason was to obtain blockers in free agency. Still recovering from the loss of former starting guards Mike Utley and Eric Andolsek, the Lions struggled on the offensive line all season, with left tackle Lomas Brown a lonely Pro Bowl performer. Lutz should line up at right tackle, replacing Scott Conover and Larry Tharpe. Fralic is the right guard, where Ken Dallalior, Jack Linn, and Dennis McKnight played. Richards is the left guard, where Shawn Bouwens and Mike Hinnant were positioned. Center Kevin Glover is expected back from injury. At tight end, when and if the Lions decide to use tight ends, Holman is joined by second-year pro Thomas McLemore.

Swilling adds instant credibility to a defense that fell from 15th to 20th and was 25th in sacks. Since the knee injury to Mike Cofer, the Lions have not been able to put anybody on the field who could bring pressure off the corner. They made Swilling rich with a free-agent offer after the 1991 season that the Saints matched. They pursued Thomas and finally got Swilling for a No. 1 and a No. 4 pick cheaper than the cost would have been under the old system. Swilling's forte is beating the count in noisy domed stadiums, perfect for extending his career from the Superdome to the Silverdome. He will make the entire defense better. His acquisition immediately

quieted any second-guessing about dumping nose tackle Jerry Ball to Cleveland after his unproductive season.

The expected development of down lineman Robert Porcher and linebacker Tracy Scroggins in their second seasons should make new defensive coordinator Hank Bullough's job more enjoyable. With big ends Marc Spindler and Dan Owens, third-year end Kelvin Pritchett, and nose tackle Lawrence Pete, Bullough has several possible combinations. The addition of third-round linebacker Antonio London joining Scroggins, Tracy Hayworth, and the versatile George Jamison gives Bullough more options around Swilling at outside linebacker. Inside backer Chris Spielman continues to be a model of the consummate pro. Even without a strong line in front of him, or maybe because of it, Spielman made 146 tackles last year, and he doesn't even play every down. Dennis Gibson is the other inside starter with Victor Jones and John Derby in reserve.

The Lions lost two cornerbacks to free agency in Melvin Jenkins and Sheldon White, so they were ecstatic to get Ryan McNeil from Miami in the second round of the draft. He will



get a chance to start opposite Ray Crockett with strong safety William White and free safety Bennie Blades providing the heart of the secondary. Blades played hurt and still has like few others at his position.

Rookie place-kicker Jason Hanson was outstanding as the Lions continue to field some of the league's premier special teams under the gung-ho direction of Frank Gansz. Jim Arnold is the punter and Mel Gray comes off an injury as the league's best combination return man.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
6	Arnold, Jim	P	6-3	211	32	Vanderbilt
40	Barrett, Reggie	WR	6-3	215	24	UTEP
33	Bennett, Antoine	CB	5-11	185	26	Florida A&M
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	27	Miami
66	Bouwens, Shawn	DG	6-4	290	25	Neb-Hesleyan
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	287	30	Florida
68	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	275	29	South Carolina
67	Campbell, Jeff	WR	5-8	173	25	Colorado
50	Cason, Tody	LB	6-1	243	28	LSU
32	Clay, Willie	CB	5-9	184	23	Georgia Tech
55	Cofer, Michael	LB	6-5	244	33	Tennessee
49	Coleman, Sidney	LB	6-2	250	29	Southern Miss
21	Colon, Harry	S	6-0	203	24	Missouri
76	Conover, Scott	T	6-4	285	25	Purdue
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-9	181	26	Baylor
67	Dallalior, Ken	OL	6-4	283	34	Minnesota
52	Derby, John	LB	6-0	232	25	Iowa
97	Ford, Darryl	LB	6-1	225	27	New Mexico St.
79	Fralic, Bill	OG	6-5	280	31	Pittsburgh
98	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	243	29	Iowa State
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	30	Maryland
23	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	162	32	Purdue
86	Green, Willie	WR	6-2	181	27	Mississippi
74	Griffin, Willie	DE	6-3	286	27	Nebraska
4	Hanson, Jason	K	5-11	183	23	Washington St.
99	Hayworth, Tody	LB	6-3	260	26	Tennessee
81	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	33	Tulane
44	Ingram, Mike	S	6-3	208	25	Michigan St.
58	Jamison, George	LB	6-1	235	31	Cincinnati
89	Johnson, Jimmie	TE	6-2	255	27	Howard
95	Johnson, Troy	LB	6-2	230	28	Oklahoma
51	Jones, Andre	LB	6-2	245	24	Notre Dame
57	Jones, Victor	LB	6-2	250	27	Virginia Tech
45	Kent, Philip	LB	6-1	244	23	Mississippi
12	Kramer, Erik	DB	6-1	199	29	N.C. State
72	Linn, Jack	OL	6-5	265	26	West Virginia
16	Lutz, Chuck	OL	6-4	217	30	Iowa
73	Lutz, Dave	OL	6-6	305	34	Georgia Tech
26	Witch, Eric	RB	5-10	224	23	Grand Valley St.
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	31	Delta State
82	McLemore, Thomas	TE	6-5	245	23	Southern
62	Miller, Blake	C	6-1	282	25	LSU
84	Moore, Herman	WR	6-3	210	24	Virginia
90	Owens, Dan	DE	6-3	280	26	Southern Cal.
9	Pete, Rodney	QB	6-0	207	27	Southern Cal.
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	28	Miami
96	Pete, Lawrence	NT	6-0	275	27	Nebraska
91	Porcher, Robert	DE	6-3	283	24	S.C. State
94	Pritchett, Kevin	DE	6-2	281	24	Mississippi
77	Reynolds, Don	DE	6-3	278	24	Virginia
28	Richards, Curvin	RB	5-9	185	25	Pittsburgh
63	Richards, Dave	G	6-5	310	27	JCLA
5	Riley, Mike	P	6-0	217	25	Mississippi St.
27	Robinson, Junior	CB	5-9	181	25	East Carolina
20	Sanders, Barry	SB	5-8	203	25	Oklahoma St.
38	Scott, Kevin	CB	5-9	175	24	Stanford
59	Scroggins, Tracy	LB	6-2	255	24	Tulsa
54	Spindler, Chris	LB	6-0	247	28	Ohio State
92	Spindler, Marc	DE	6-5	290	24	Pittsburgh
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	29	Georgia Tech
71	Tharpe, Larry	T	6-4	299	23	Tennessee St.
34	Thurston, Ed	RB	6-0	225	24	NW Missouri St.
8	Turner, Vernon	WR	5-8	185	26	Carson-Newman
69	Varchava, Pierre	OL	6-1	275	29	Western Ontario
11	Ware, Ardie	QB	6-2	205	25	Houston
61	White, Mark	G	6-5	298	24	Florida
35	White, William	S	5-10	191	27	Ohio State
70	Wilson, Bernard	DT	6-2	295	23	Tennessee St.

UPDATES

no	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	McNeil, Ryan	CB	6-3	175	Miami
3	London, Antonio	LB	6-2	234	Alabama
3	Compton, Mike	OL	6-6	294	West Virginia
6	Jellins, Greg	DB	5-9	183	Virginia
7	Hollock, Ty	LB	6-2	252	Michigan St.
8	Minefield, Kevin	DB	5-9	177	Arizona St.



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two starters in Pittsburgh linebacker Hardy Nickerson and Washington cornerback Marten Mayhew. Speed is a vital ingredient missing in the offense, but the Bucs felt they needed to address a defense that fell from a respectable 11th in 1991 all the way to 25th, an embarrassing turnaround for coordinator Floyd Peters.

If the quarterback finds his way into Wyche's plans, he can hand off to Reggie Cobb, one of a few Buccaneers who could start for a lot of teams. His 1,171 yards were good for seventh in the league and his nine touchdowns more than doubled the production of any of his teammates. Adding Vince Workman from the Packers in free agency was a good move that will lighten Cobb's workload. Anthony McDowell, developed as a blocker and receiver at fullback as a rookie.

Carrier's departure places an extra burden on receiver Lawrence Dawsey, whose 60 catches led the club last year. He would benefit by a deep threat on the other side. Courtney Hawkins and Charles Wilson need to develop. Third-round pick Lamar Thomas and fourth-rounder Horace Cope and, teammates from Miami, will get long looks. Tight end is a strength with steady Ron Hall complemented by young Tyji Armstrong. Hall equaled his career best of 39 catches in just 12 games before a knee injury ended his season. Rookie Armstrong took over and improved more than any player Wyche could recall.

Gruber completed his fifth season without missing so much as a snap, an impressive fact considering he plays the demanding left tackle spot. The Bucs were bracing for a prolonged contract problem with the unsigned Gruber when they lured former all-pro left tackle Anthony Munoz out of retirement for a one-year reunion with his old coach from Cincinnati. Munoz is versatile enough to fill in at guard or push the slowly developing Charles McRae at right tackle. The guards are Ian Beckles and Bruce Remmers, the latter a former Munoz teammate postponing retirement at Cincinnati-South. Center Tony Mayberry is solid and reserves Rob Taylor, Tom McHale, and Mike Sullivan are versatile.

It is on defense where the question marks linger. Peters converted Chris Doeman into a dominating right end in Minnesota and has tried to do the same with McCants. So far, not good. If Curry can step in as expected and provide the quick, upfield pass rush, McCants will be looking for new territory. If it's at linebacker, what happens to Thomas, whose per-

formance slipped from 1991 to 1992? McCants and Thomas had five sacks apiece, combining to equal the number put up by Santana Dotson, an impressive rookie tackle. Dotson burst onto the scene with 25 quarterback pressures, 11 tackles for losses, and 10 sacks. He could play end if required. Fellow rookie tackle Mark Wheeler was also outstanding with five sacks and an ability to play the run. Left end Ray Seals had five sacks while fighting injury.

Nickerson, Pittsburgh's leading tackler, will stabilize a linebacking crew in need of changes. Second-rounder Demetrius DuBose and Nickerson are expected to start right away somewhere in the unit. Last season by Thomas, Jimmy Williams, and Derrick Brownlow. DuBose and Nickerson both play inside, where Brownlow impressed Wyche, but DuBose could move outside. Williams led the front seven in tackles at the advanced linebacker age of 32. Calvin Tigge, ex-Packer Reggie Burnette, and young Elijah Alexander fill out the depth chart.

The Bucs improved from 25th to 11th against the run, but their pass defense was the worst in the league. Since left cornerback Ricky Reynolds is one of the league's most underrated cover men, defending a team-record 24 passes, the Buc problems in the secondary are apparent. That's why the addition of Mayhew was so important. He'll take over the right side, where Milton Mack, Roger Jones, Garry Lewis, and Darryl Polard labored a year ago. Strong safety Marty Carter led the team in tackles with 118, but both safety spots are open for competition with the addition of Cincinnati's Barney Bussey and third-rounder John Lynch from Stanford. Free safe-

ty Tony Covington missed practically the entire season with a knee injury, and replacement Darrel Fulington was beaten out by Joe King by the end of the year.

The special teams were unimpressive. After losing kicker Steve Christie to Buffalo in Plan B, they never recovered. Eddie Murray was a stopgap punter. Dan Stryzinski was adequate, but the Bucs finished 27th in the NFL in overall special-teams rankings.

VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
59	Anthony Carter	LB	6-2	230	23	Kansas St.
44	Andre J. Dixon	CB	5-10	180	24	Toledo
40	Andre Gray	RB	6-1	190	32	Arkansas
46	Armstrong, Jr.	TE	6-4	255	23	Mississippi
36	Barry, Jr.	CB	6-0	180	29	N.C. A&T
42	Benjamin	OG	6-1	295	26	Indiana
43	Benjamin	K	6-0	180	25	Mesa St.
53	Billy, Jr.	LB	6-2	235	31	Illinois
50	Brownlow, Derrick	LB	6-0	235	25	Illinois
41	Burnette, Reggie	LB	6-2	240	25	Houston
49	Burnette, Reggie	S	6-0	210	31	S.C. State
47	Carter, Marty	SS	6-1	200	24	Middle Tenn. St.
52	Chandler, Jr.	DE	6-1	240	25	Virginia Tech
45	Chandler, Robert	WR	5-10	175	26	San Diego St.
34	Clark, Jr.	RB	6-0	215	25	Tennessee
29	Covington, Tony	S	5-11	190	28	Virginia
43	Covington, Tony	K	6-3	180	25	Sacramento St.
60	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	195	25	Florida St.
7	Dixon, Jr.	QB	6-3	215	39	San Jose St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-5	285	27	Memphis St.
71	Dixon, Jr.	DL	6-5	270	24	Baylor
7	Dixon, Jr.	K	6-0	210	24	Alabama
7	Dixon, Jr.	QB	6-2	200	24	Miami
26	Dixon, Jr.	CB	5-10	180	24	Kansas St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	OT	6-5	290	28	Wisconsin
3	Dixon, Jr.	DE	6-2	260	25	California
42	Dixon, Jr.	TE	6-4	245	29	Hawaii
30	Dixon, Jr.	TE	6-4	260	24	N.C. State
65	Dixon, Jr.	WR	5-9	180	24	Michigan St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	DL	6-3	290	26	Florida St.
8	Dixon, Jr.	K	6-2	195	27	Tennessee
44	Dixon, Jr.	CB	5-9	175	24	Tennessee St.
3	Dixon, Jr.	S	6-2	200	25	Oklahoma St.
40	Dixon, Jr.	CB	5-11	185	26	Alcorn St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	CB	5-11	185	30	Alcorn St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	C	6-4	290	26	Wake Forest
4	Dixon, Jr.	DL	6-3	280	23	Oklahoma
4	Dixon, Jr.	WR	6-0	180	25	Oklahoma St.
21	Dixon, Jr.	CB	5-8	175	28	Florida St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	P	6-2	210	24	North Carolina
51	Dixon, Jr.	DE	6-3	265	25	Alabama
4	Dixon, Jr.	RB	6-0	225	24	Florida
42	Dixon, Jr.	FB	5-11	230	25	Texas Tech
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-4	290	30	Cornell
70	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-7	300	25	Tennessee
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-6	285	35	Southern Cal
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-6	285	37	Tulane
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-2	225	28	California
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-1	205	24	California
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-1	185	29	Walter St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-7	300	33	Iowa St.
45	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-5	190	28	Washington St.
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-1	205	23	Southern Cal
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-2	280	25	Noire Dame
40	Dixon, Jr.	DE	6-2	270	28	Nono
4	Dixon, Jr.	P	6	195	28	Indiana
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-7	290	26	Miam
4	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-6	280	33	Northwestern
51	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-4	250	26	Nebraska
40	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-1	235	25	Georgia Tech
60	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-2	315	27	Florida St.
71	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-2	280	23	Texas A&M
54	Dixon, Jr.	P	6-3	230	33	Nebraska
44	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-1	180	25	Memphis St.
44	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-0	180	27	East Carolina
46	Dixon, Jr.	OL	6-0	205	25	Ohio St.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Curry, Eric	DE	6-6	285	Alabama
2	DuBose, Demetrius	LB	6-1	232	Notre Dame
3	Thomas, Lamar	WR	6-1	163	Miami
3	Lynch, John	SS	6-1	219	Stanford
4	Harris, Rudy	FB	5-1	250	Clemson
4	Copeland, Horace	WR	6-2	194	Miami
6	Alanoli, Chidi	OT	6-2	270	California
7	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	185	Central Arkansas
8	Branch, Derrick	WR	6-0	201	Hawaii
9	Alcorn, Daron	K	5-4	220	Alcorn



VINCE WORKMAN

NFC east

SMITH

COWBOYS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elliot, 119 points on 47 extra points and 24 field goals. 2nd
RUSHING—Smith, 1,713 yards on 373 yards, 4.6 avg., 18 TDs. 1st
PASSING—Aikman, 302 of 473 attempts for 3,445 yards and 23 TDs. 3rd
RECEIVING—Irvin, 78 receptions for 1,396 yards, 17.9 avg., 7 TDs
INTERCEPTIONS—Washington, 3 for 31 yards, 10.3 average. 16th
PUNTING—Saxon, 61 punts, 43.0 avg., longest 58 yards. 5th
PLNT RETURNS—Martin, 42 for 532 yards, 12.7 avg., 2 TDs. 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Martin, 24 for 503 yards, 21.0 average. 10th
SACKS—Jeffcoat, 10.5 sacks. 78th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 31 MINNESOTA (N)
 August 8 Detroit at London, England
 14 L.A. RAIDERS (N)
 21 Houston at San Antonio, TX
 27 At Chicago (N)

1993 SCHEDULE	1992 SCORES
September 6 At Washington (N)	17-20
12 BUFFALO	
19 At Phoenix (N)	6-10
26 OPEN DATE	
October 3 GREEN BAY	
10 At Indianapolis	
17 SAN FRANCISCO	
24 OPEN DATE	
31 At Philadelphia	7-31
November 7 At NY GIANTS	30-3
14 PHOENIX	21-29
21 At Atlanta	41-17
25 MIAMI	
December 6 PHILADELPHIA (N)	20-16
12 At Minnesota	
18 At NY Jets	
26 WASHINGTON	23-10
January 2 At NY Giants	34-28

THE COWBOYS

The Cowboys are different. After engineering 46 trades to build a Super Bowl team in only four years, Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson were forced by circumstance to pretty much maintain the status quo during the last offseason. Some status quo. The Cowboys were not only Super Bowl champions, they were the youngest team in the league. Sticking together is not a bad idea. Jones is convinced that young, hungry players who fit nicely under the salary cap will become the nucleus of all good teams in the future. The Cowboys won with 12 starters who haven't yet qualified for unrestricted free agency.

While teams all around them scrambled to catch up through free agency and the draft, the Cowboys circled their wagons. Their first

order of business was to sign pass rusher Charles Haley before he could shop on the open market. Although the Cowboys had a right of first refusal on Haley, they got the job done before outrageous offers could turn his head. Adding Haley and plugging in several young defensive players made the difference in the Cowboys' turnaround from an average defense to the No. 1 unit in the league.

Replacing coordinator Dave Wannstedt, who went to Chicago, was another priority. But Johnson claimed he has made staff changes nearly every year he has coached. Defensive line coach Butch Davis assumed Wannstedt's role, and the Cowboys believe nobody will be able to tell the difference. The last three Super Bowl winners have played in the NFC East, making it difficult to repeat even as division champions. Dallas nevertheless is favored again because no team looks better. Despite all the changes by all their rivals, the Cowboys will be tough to catch.

Troy Aikman is reason enough to make the Cowboys favorites. He finished as the hottest quarterback in football, beating Steve Young on his home turf and blowing away Jim Kelly in the Super Bowl. Over the last nine weeks, he threw 20 touchdown passes and only three interceptions. In three playoff victories, Aikman threw eight touchdown passes and no interceptions as the Cowboys outscored the Eagles, 49ers, and Bills 116-47. It was Aikman's first experience as a playoff quarterback after two years of frustrating injuries. He became only the second quarterback drafted No. 1 overall to take his team to the top, joining Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw. After completely fulfilling his potential, there is only one thing



remaining to do it again and again. Health appears the only obstacle. Aikman, unlike Washington's Mark Rypien the year before, demonstrated more skills to serve him well over the long haul.

Losing backup quarterback Steve Beuerlein in free agency was expected, but losing him to Phoenix was a double blow because the Cowboys must face him twice a year. New England's Hugh Millen, his replacement, gives the Cowboys a mature, experienced

backup who should be happy to jump from a 2-14 team to the top

Emmitt Smith is the next key to success. His contract expired after three brilliant seasons but the first runner to win back-to-back rushing titles since Eric Dickerson received no offer sheet as a restricted free agent because rival clubs figured the Cowboys would only match whatever they offered. Smith also would cost a competing team a No. 1 and a No. 3 draft choice. A workhorse and scoring threat, Smith ran for 1,713 yards, breaking Tony Dorsett's club record and scored 19 touchdowns, the most in the league since Jerry Rice's 23 in 1987. No other halfback is better near the goal line. After dumping young Curvin Richards behind Smith, the Cowboys went with Derrick Gainer. At fullback, the development of Dary Johnston was a welcome sight. Talented as a lead blocker, Johnston became a receiving and running threat, especially after tight end Alfredo Roberts got hurt. Tommie Agee is the backup.

Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper are the best pair of young receivers in the league, with Harper blossoming in his second year to complement Irvin perfectly. Their size enables both to be dangerous downfield targets even if they aren't the fastest pair in the league. Losing third receiver and kick-return specialist Kelvin Martin to Seattle hurt, but Johnson quickly dipped into his reservoir of talent at the University of Miami and came up with Kevin Williams. The Cowboys did it after trading down, of course, to pick up an extra draft choice. Jones also made sure Williams became the first drafted rookie to sign a contract. Second-year man Jimmy Smith should be ready to contribute after a broken leg wiped out his rookie season. Jay Novacek

helped the Cowboys finish 28th on offense in 1990 into an effective unit that jumped all the way to fourth last season. Without a No. 1 draft choice in the bunch, the Dallas line must get at least some credit for protecting Aikman and paving the way for Smith. Right guard John Gesek graded out best, and right tackle Erik Williams is a future star. Left tackle Mark Tuinei and left guard Nate Newton played exceptionally well and center Mark Stepnoski joined Newton at the Pro Bowl. Alan Veingrad, Kevin Gogan, Frank Cornish, and long-snapper Dale Helestrae are backups on a unit where Tuinei, 33, is the oldest.

The signature of the defense is the rotation of fresh bodies, especially on the front, where tackles Russell Maryland, Tony Casillas, Leon Lett, and Jimmie Jones took turns creating havoc in the middle. Left end Tony Tolbert had 8½ sacks as a starter and replacement Jim Jeffcoat had 10½ to lead the club. Right end Haley, who rarely rested, had six sacks, but twice as many hurries as anybody else.

The linebackers also rotate, with Ken Norton Jr. the only starter to stay on the field at all



times. He was the unsung hero on a defense so integrated that nobody made the Pro Bowl despite its No. 1 ranking. In the Super Bowl, Norton demonstrated the mistake to his voting peers. He is the weakside backer who moves to the middle in nickel situations, replacing rookie Robert Jones. Strongside backer Vinson Smith shared time with Godfrey Myes, who blew out a knee in the Super Bowl and is not expected back in 1993. That's why Johnston drafted quick, undersized linebacker Darin Smith of Miami right after Williams in the second round. Dixon Edwards and Mickey Pruitt also are valuable reserves.

Changes in the secondary put the icing on the Cowboy cake. Larry Brown emerged from the 12th round in 1991 to nail down the right cornerback spot for a second season and

rookie Kevin Smith broke into the starting lineup in the last six games on the left side, replacing Issiac Holt. Second-year man Clayton Holmes backs them up. At strong safety, Thomas Everett arrived from Pittsburgh in time to solidify the entire unit. James Washington and nickel back Kenny Gant shared the interception lead with three apiece. Darren Woodson is expected to challenge for a starting job in his second season.

Martin's returns will be missed. Place-kicker Len Eliott had an impressive rookie season. Mike Saxon's net punting average of 33.5 yards was his career worst.

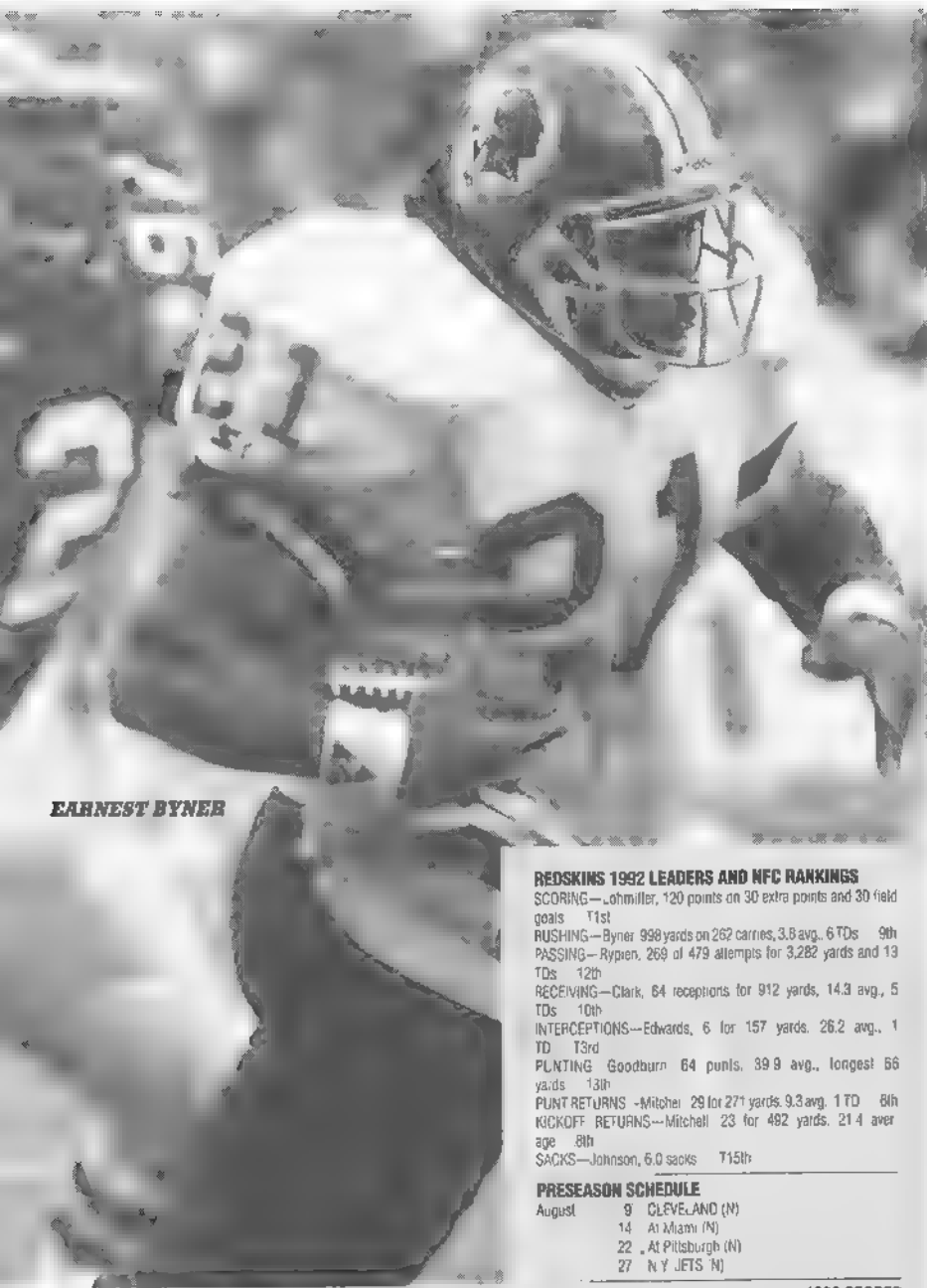
COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	h	wt	age	college
50	Adams, Buddy	LB	6-3	236	26	Michigan
36	Agee, Tommie	FB	6-4	227	29	Auburn
6	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	226	28	CUA
46	Bales, Pat	S	6-1	203	32	Tennessee
2	Beasley, Michael	RB	5-10	95	24	West Virginia
45	Beggs, Milton	E	6-4	273	24	Wake Forest
42	Beggs, Greg	S	6-7	212	25	Texas Southern
24	Brown, Barry	LB	6-1	185	24	TU
75	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-4	273	30	Alabama
68	Cornish, Frank	LS	6-4	185	26	CUA
5	Dare, Tim	WR	6-1	190	24	Long Beach A&M
6	Edwards, Mickey	LB	6-1	200	26	California State
58	Edwards, John	LB	6-2	224	25	Michigan State
2	Elliot, Len	K	6-0	182	21	Mass. Tech.
60	Evans, Myes	LB	6-2	203	24	Texas Southern
27	Everett, Thomas	S	6-1	193	29	Boylston
56	Foster, Mike	LB	6-1	247	27	Idaho
74	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
24	Gesek, John	S	6-1	194	26	Michigan
17	Gibbs, Tony	QB	6-2	201	27	Pittsburgh
42	Gibbs, Tony	QB	6-2	201	26	Pittsburgh
63	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
66	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
34	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
40	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
38	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
70	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
45	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
91	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
47	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
20	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
88	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
14	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
48	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
97	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
55	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
69	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
78	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
67	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
39	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
61	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
5	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
84	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
52	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
87	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
4	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
22	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
81	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
26	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
57	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
53	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
92	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
71	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
76	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
37	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
74	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
21	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
86	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M
28	Gogan, Kevin	LS	6-1	240	27	Florida A&M

no.	name	pos.	h	wt	college
2	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	190	Miami
3	Smith, Darin	LB	6-0	228	Miami
3	Middleton, Mike	DB	5-10	210	Indiana
4	Lassie, Derrick	RB	5-9	188	Alabama
4	Stone, Ron	LT	6-4	296	Boston College
6	Minter, Barry	OT	6-2	240	Tulsa
7	Manon, Brook	DB	6-1	180	Nevada
7	Thomas, Dave	DB	6-3	209	Tennessee
8	Givens, Reggie	DB	5-11	218	Penn State

went to the Pro Bowl after leading all tight ends with 68 receptions, only 10 behind teammate Irvin. The return of Roberts is questionable, so the Cowboys need to upgrade the position for blocking purposes.

The Cowboys also lost offensive line coach Tony Wise to Chicago. Wise turned a line that



EARNEST BYNER

REDSKINS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lohmiller, 120 points on 30 extra points and 30 field goals T1st
RUSHING—Byner 998 yards on 262 carries, 3.8 avg., 6 TDs 9th
PASSING—Rypien, 269 of 479 attempts for 3,282 yards and 13 TDs 12th
RECEIVING—Clark, 64 receptions for 912 yards, 14.3 avg., 5 TDs 10th
INTERCEPTIONS—Edwards, 6 for 157 yards, 26.2 avg., 1 TD T3rd
PUNTING—Goodburn 64 punts, 39.9 avg., longest 56 yards 13th
PUNT RETURNS—Mitchell 29 for 271 yards, 9.3 avg., 1 TD 8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mitchell 23 for 482 yards, 21.4 avg., 8th
SACKS—Johnson, 6.0 sacks T15th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 9 CLEVELAND (N)
 14 At Miami (N)
 22 At Pittsburgh (N)
 27 N.Y. JETS (N)

TO	BY	1992 SCORES
September	6 DALLAS (N)	20-7
	12 PHOENIX	41-3
	19 At Philadelphia	13-17
October	26 OPEN DATE	
	4 At Miami (N)	
	10 N.Y. GIANTS	7-24
	17 At Phoenix	24-27
	24 OPEN DATE	
November	1 At Buffalo (N)	
	7 INDIANAPOLIS (N)	
	14 At N.Y. GIANTS	28-10
	21 At L.A. Rams	
	28 PHILADELPHIA	16-12
December	5 At Tampa Bay	
	11 N.Y. JETS	
	19 ATLANTA	24-17
	26 At Dallas	10-23
	31 MINNESOTA	15-13

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

No Joe Gibbs is a blow for the Redskins. No successor is better qualified than Richie Petitbon, but no team can unplug a coach as successful as Gibbs and not expect some transition pains. Petitbon naturally wants to keep up Gibbs's good work, and he is better suited to the task than Ray Handley was in following Bill Parcells, but this will not be easy. Petitbon is taking over a playoff team, a team one year removed from a dominant Super Bowl winning season. Expectations are much higher in Washington than they are in, say Chicago, where Dave Wannstedt is replacing Mike Ditka or in New York, where Dan Reeves takes over for Handley.

The Redskins are an aging team that was restricted in their pursuit of free agents and confined by the looming salary cap. There will be tough decisions as Petitbon is forced to break up his old gang and start fresh. Fortunately, Petitbon is not afraid of decisions and

ample, Petitbon said: "He didn't play very well. He's got to play better." There is no beating around the bush from Petitbon.

To the Redskins' advantage is a continuity of coaching that is Gibbs's legacy. Few organizations enjoy such stability. Petitbon arrived in Washington three years before Gibbs, who benefited from a staff that was well-paid and well-treated. The Redskins will not have to deal with many changes in offensive or defensive strategy or philosophy. Changes in per-

REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	age	college
98	Barker, Tony	LB	6-2	230	25	Rice
57	Bingham, Guy	C	6-3	260	35	Montana
53	Bostic, Jeff	C	6-2	278	35	Clemson
22	Bowles, Todd	FS	6-2	205	30	Temple
95	Brantley, John	LB	6-3	240	28	Georgia
67	Brown, Ray	T	6-5	280	31	Arkansas State
99	Buck, Jason	DE	6-5	265	30	BYU
21	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	218	31	East Carolina
50	Caldwell, Rayn	LB	6-3	240	30	Arkansas
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	245	36	Central Arkansas
55	Collins, Andre	LB	6-1	233	25	Penn State
90	Collins, Shane	DE	6-3	267	24	Arizona State
12	Conklin, Cary	QB	6-4	215	25	Washington
26	Cupeland, Danny	SS	6-2	213	27	Eastern Kentucky
27	Edwards, Brad	FS	6-2	207	27	South Carolina
64	Elewonibi, Mo	T	6-4	282	28	BYU
52	Elkott, Matt	C	6-1	265	25	Michigan
32	Ervin, Ricky	RB	5-7	200	25	Southern Cal
2	Goodburn, Kelly	P	6-2	199	31	Emporia State
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	227	29	BYU
90	Graft, Rick	LB	6-5	244	29	Wisconsin
28	Green, Darrel	CB	5-8	170	33	Texas A&M
39	Green, Robert	RB	5-8	207	23	William & Mary
29	Guadagnoli, David	FS	6-1	203	26	Jacksonville St.
72	Haight, Mike	T	6-4	291	31	Iowa
6	Haker, Chris	QB	6-2	230	24	William & Mary
24	Harvey, Car	WR	5-9	170	26	Utah
34	Hodge, Terry	FS	6-2	201	31	Georgia
86	Hobbs, Stephen	WR	5-11	200	28	North Alabama
80	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-9	183	23	Michigan
66	Jacoby, Joe	G	6-6	314	34	Louisville
88	Jenkins, James	TE	6-2	234	26	Rutgers
47	Johnson, AJ	CB	5-8	170	26	SW Texas St.
45	Johnson, S. dney	CB	5-9	175	28	California
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	283	28	Penn State
79	Jachey, Jim	T	6-6	294	30	Ohio State
8	Johnnie, Chip	K	6-3	20	27	Minnesota
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	272	32	Nevada
58	Marshall, Wilbur	LB	6-1	231	31	Florida
20	Mays, Alford	CB	5-9	180	27	West Virginia
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	183	29	Tennessee
63	McKenzie, Raleigh	OL	6-2	279	30	Tennessee
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	270	27	Auburn
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	209	25	SW Louisiana
81	Monk, Art	WR	6-3	210	36	Syracuse
62	Moore, Darryl	G	6-2	292	24	JTEP
	Neaga, Al	DE	6-1	264	28	Hawaii
89	Orr, Terry	TE	6-2	235	32	Texas
56	Powell, Boone	LB	6-3	237	25	Texas
95	Rogers, Ted	LB	6-2	240	24	Williams
82	Rowe, Ray	TE	6-2	256	24	San Diego St.
10	Rutledge, Jeff	QB	6-1	195	36	Alabama
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	31	Washington St.
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	160	31	SW Texas St.
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	283	27	Idaho
23	Settle, John	RB	5-9	210	31	Appalachian St.
73	Siever, Paul	G	6-5	293	24	Penn State
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	300	30	E. Washington
24	Stock, Mark	WR	6-0	185	27	
41	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	191	29	Baylor
31	Vaughn, Clarence	SS	6-0	202	29	Northern Illinois
77	Wahler, Jim	DT	6-4	275	27	JCLA
85	Warren, Don	TE	6-4	242	37	San Diego St.
75	Williams, Eric	DT	6-4	290	31	Washington St.
94	Wilson, Bobby	DT	6-2	283	25	Michigan State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Carter, Tom	DB	5-11	167	Noire Dame
2	Brooks, Reggie	RB	5-7	209	Noire Dame
3	Hamilton, Rick	LB	6-1	243	Central Florida
3	Bunn, Ed	P	6-2	185	JTEP
4	Palmer, Sterling	DE	6-5	258	Florida State
5	Huntington, Greg	C	6-3	271	Penn State
6	Morrison, Darryl	DB	5-10	185	Arizona
6	Hydebeck, Frank	TE	6-3	234	Maryland
8	Hollingsworth, Jamont	LB	6-3	225	Southern Cal

sonnel are another matter. Petitbon got credit from Gibbs for making him look good as his defense bailed out Gibbs's offense on many occasions. Last year, when the offense slipped in so many statistical categories and Rypien fell from Super Bowl MVP to the NFC's lowest-rated passer, it was the defense that stayed among the league's elite and helped the Redskins squeeze into the playoffs as a wild card with a 9-7 record.

The Redskins suffered some significant losses on the free-agent market when receiver Gary Clark went to Phoenix, cornerback Martin Mayhew went to Tampa Bay, and pass rushers Fred Stokes and Jumpy Geathers



his Super Bowl season. Rypien went down 23 times last season and five more times in two playoff games. Of more concern is how Rypien played when he was standing up. He threw 13 touchdown passes and 17 interceptions and overthrew Clark so many times it drove Clark to Phoenix. Before he left, Gibbs promised to allow second-year pro Cary Conklin a chance to compete in training camp. Petitbon is eager to see Conklin, too, recalling that Conklin's 1992 preseason appearances were full of promise. Chris Hake, another strong-armed kid from Washington's injured reserve cradle of quarterbacks, is ex-



went to the Rams and Atlanta, respectively. But Petitbon is convinced things will work out. He drafted cornerback Tom Carter No. 1 and signed defensive end Al Noga from Minnesota and receiver Tim McGee from Cincinnati. And there is last year's No. 1 draft choice, receiver Desmond Howard, an unused commodity Petitbon can't wait to see in action.

Rypien is not only coming off a disappointing year, he is coming off shoulder surgery. After being sacked only seven times during



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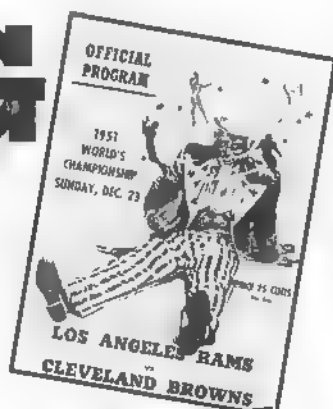
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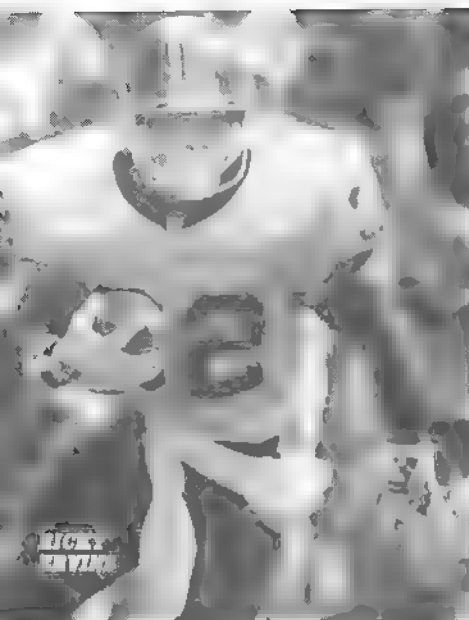
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pected to replace Jeff Rutledge as No. 3.

Howard caught only three passes last season at a cost of about \$1 million per grab. He returned a lateraled punt for a touchdown, but returned only six punts overall and 22 kickoffs, hardly a representative season for the 1991 Heisman Trophy winner. He will fit into Clark's spot, with Ricky Sanders and Art Monk in the three-wideout set and McGee looking for new life on a team that needs him. Stephen Hobbs is coming off an injury. Sanders is coming off an outstanding season. Monk is now the league's all-time leading receiver, but his 46 catches were a 10-year low and an indication of the future. H-back Terry Orr led the team in average per catch at 16.2 yards on 22 receptions, not a good sign for an offense that terrorized teams in 1991 with its long passing game. Orr led the club in that category in 1991 as well, but it was on only 10 catches. Clark, meanwhile, slipped from 19 yards to 14. Ron Middleton is the blocking tight end and Don Warren is near the end of his career.

Speed at running back is a concern the team addressed with the selection of Notre Dame's Reggie Brooks in the second round. Brooks is in the short, stocky mold of Ricky Ervins, who didn't play as well last year as he did in '91. Reliable unspectacular Earnest Byner fell two yards short of becoming Washington's first threepeat 1,000-yard rusher, but his long run was 23 yards. Kick-return specialist Brian Mitchell was so impressive against Minnesota in the playoffs in a reserve role that he will get a shot at more carries.

Injuries ravaged the offensive line, forcing Raleigh McKenzie to spend time at center, guard, and tackle, once in the same game. His heroics should get him Pro Bowl votes on a line where he is surrounded by Pro Bowl reputations. Left tackle Jim Lachey, right guard Mark Schlereth, center Jeff Bostic, and right tackle Ed Simmons all were hampered or stopped by injury. Joe Jacoby, Ray Brown, Mike Haght, and Matt Elliott all started at times. Mo Elewonibi is coming off a knee injury.

Petitbon's defensive line lost pass rushers Stokes and Geathers, but still has Charles Mann and expects Eric Williams and Bobby Wilson off the injured list. Second-year man Shane Collins showed promise and should re-


place Stokes, with newcomer Noga solidly in the picture, Jason Buck a versatile reserve, and fourth-rounder Sterling Palmer another welcome addition.

While signing outside linebacker Wilber Marshall is expected to take time, the Redskins like their group of Marshall, Kurt Gouveia, and Andre Collins, with the ageless Monte Coleman, young John Brantley, and veteran Ravin Caldwell. Joining them is third-round inside backer Rick Hamilton.

Carter fell into Petitbon's lap as the top cornerback in the draft, filling a position of need. Darrell Green is fighting injury as much as

opposing receivers. A. J. Johnson replaces Mayhew. Alvoid Mays, Sidney Johnson, and Johnny Thomas are backups in a defense that puts considerable pressure on the corners. Strong safety Danny Copeland and free safety Brad Edwards return, backed by Todd Bowles and Terry Hoage.

Chip Lohmiller is as good a kicker as there is despite an uncharacteristic six misses between 30-39 yards. Kelly Goodburn's net punting average of 32.7 yards was the second-lowest in the NFC and Mitchell's returns weren't enough to keep the Redskins special teams from slipping to 26th in the NFL.



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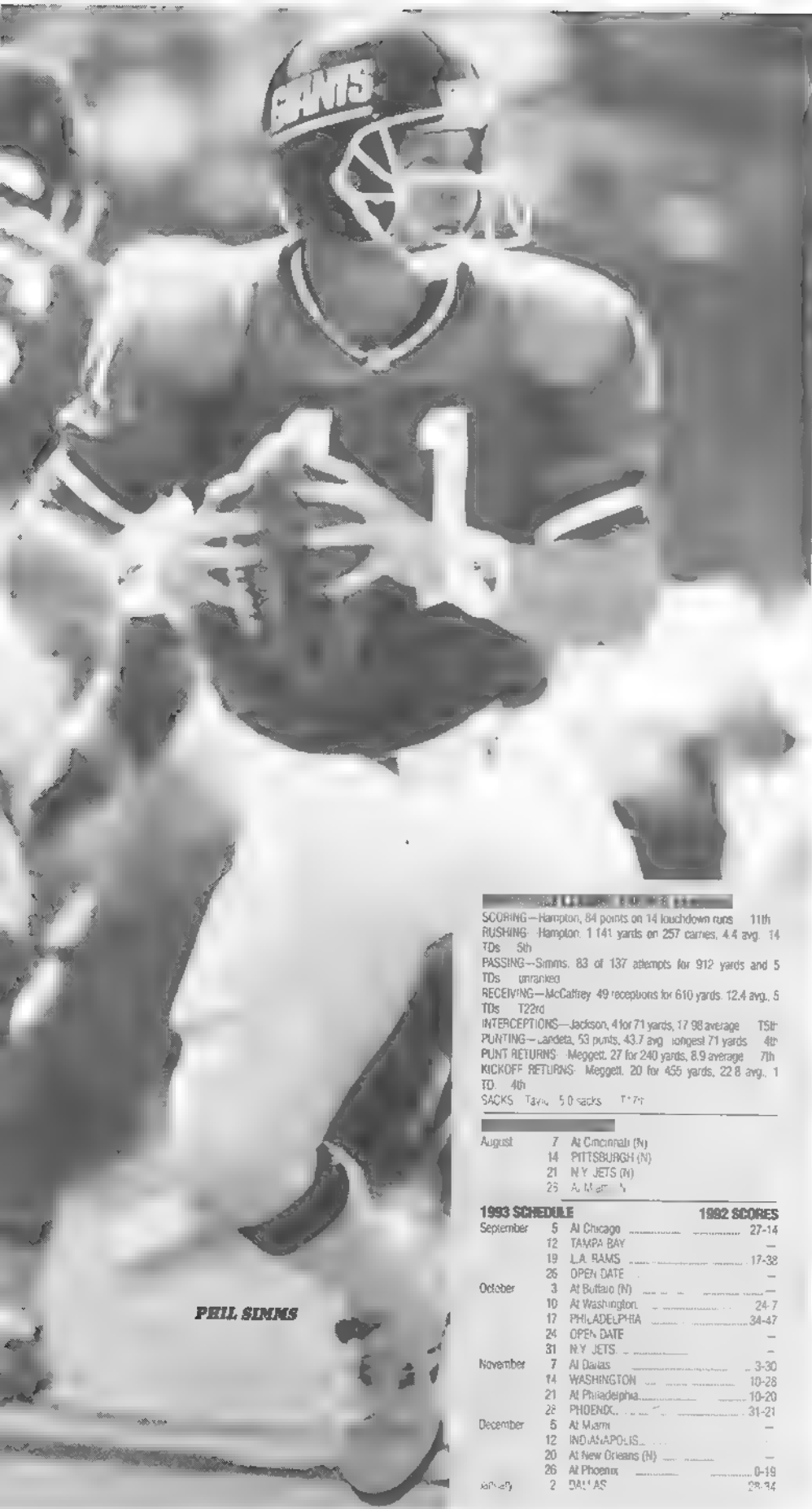
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PHIL SIMMS

NEW YORK GIANTS

The Giants are rebuilding with used parts. Phil Simms is back. Lawrence Taylor is back. Dan Reeves is coach. It is a transition period before the Dave Browns and Derek Browns and Michael Strahans develop. Just hand Rodney Hampton the ball and be quiet for a year or two and see what happens.

In demonstrating the short trip from the penthouse to the outhouse, the Giants and Ray Handley performed a public service last season. It was unsettling to watch the 1990 Super Bowl champions deteriorate into a motley crew of dissidents, but it served as a reminder of how fame is fleeting and fans are fickle. In New York, it was truly the No Fun League in 1992. When the season mercifully ended, with Taylor hurt, Simms in limbo, Carl Banks complaining, Eric Moore arrested, and Handley fired, is it any wonder that GM George Young had to turn to his third choice as coach? Tom Coughlin of Boston College declined. So did Dave Wannstedt of the Cowboys. Reeves, three-time Super Bowl runner-up in Denver, called to say he was available. He got the job, which is considerable.

The first step forward was to take a step backward. Reeves anointed Simms his No. 1 quarterback and the Giants rewarded him with a two-year contract worth \$5.05 million. In calling once again on the 37-year-old Simms, the Giants gave up on Jeff Hostetler, their 1990 Super Bowl quarterback. One reason is that Simms related better to 1992 supplemental No. 1 draft choice Dave Brown and to an-



SCORING—Hampton, 84 points on 14 touchdown runs 11th
RUSHING—Hampton, 1,141 yards on 257 carries, 4.4 avg. 14 TDs 5th
PASSING—Simms, 83 of 137 attempts for 912 yards and 5 TDs unranked
RECEIVING—McCartney, 49 receptions for 610 yards, 12.4 avg., 5 TDs T22nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Jackson, 4 for 71 yards, 17.98 average T5th
PUNTING—Landeta, 53 punts, 43.7 avg. longest 71 yards 4th
PUNT RETURNS—Meggett, 27 for 240 yards, 8.9 average 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Meggett, 20 for 455 yards, 22.8 avg., 1 TD 4th
SACKS Taylor, 5.0 sacks T-7th

August 7 At Cincinnati (N)
 14 PITTSBURGH (N)
 21 N.Y. JETS (N)
 25 At Miami (A)

1993 SCHEDULE		1992 SCORES	
September	5 At Chicago	27-14	
	12 TAMPA BAY	—	
	19 L.A. RAMS	17-38	
	26 OPEN DATE	—	
October	3 At Buffalo (N)	—	
	10 At Washington	24-7	
	17 PHILADELPHIA	34-47	
	24 OPEN DATE	—	
	31 N.Y. JETS	—	
November	7 At Dallas	3-30	
	14 WASHINGTON	10-28	
	21 At Philadelphia	10-20	
	28 PHOENIX	31-21	
December	5 At Miami	—	
	12 INDIANAPOLIS	—	
	20 At New Orleans (N)	—	
	26 At Phoenix	0-19	
January	2 DALLAS	28-14	

other 1992 rookie quarterback, Kent Graham. In playing four games before going down with an elbow injury, Simms became just the 14th passer in NFL history to throw for 30,000 yards. Graham showed a live arm in subbing for the injured Hostetler. Brown is the future and looked good in practice, but he is only 23 years old.

Hampton is the present, one of the league's top five running backs, and as versatile as anybody this side of Thurman Thomas. He was sensational in his third season and is on y 24, dispelling the notion that the Giants are an

ancient team. Hampton rushed for 1,141 yards, joining Joe Morris as the only Giants to surpass 1,000 in consecutive seasons. His 28 receptions were a career low and failed to take advantage of his considerable pass-catching skills. Hampton's blocking mate, Jarrod Bunch, lived up to his first-round promise in his second season, rushing for 501 yards and a 4.8 average while blocking with the best of them. Although third-down threat David Meggett didn't have quite his usual electrifying year, he remains one of football's most dangerous weapons, still the prototype third-down specialist. With capable backup runner Lewis Tillman and ageless O.J. Anderson still competing, the Giants' group of running backs is second to none.

The receiving corps got a jolt with the defection of Mark Ingram, who didn't give the Giants a chance to match his offer from the Miami Dolphins. The Giants recovered by signing two free agents. Denver's Mark Jackson and San Francisco's Mike Sherrard. Jackson was one of John Elway's big play-makers in Denver and Sherrard was a capable third receiver in San Francisco who wants to start. Both will have to beat out Ed McCaffrey, the big third-year man who led the club in receptions with 49. Stephen Baker remains the primary deep threat. At tight end the Giants drafted Derek Brown and Aaron Pierce 1-3 last year and got no early returns. Brown caught only four passes and Pierce was injured. Veteran Howard Cross started.

The offensive line suffered a blow when guard Eric Moore was charged with three felony counts involving possession and intent to distribute anabolic steroids and human growth hormones. Moore pleaded not guilty and his case is pending. The Giants still have starting guards William Roberts and Bob Kratch, but Moore provided excellent depth. Left tackle John Elliott was named the team's "franchise" exception to free agency. With Doug Riesenbreg at right tackle, the Giants have outstanding bookends backed by third-year man Clarence Jones. Brian Williams will

get another chance to beat out center Bart Oates, at 34 the Giants' oldest starter.

The defense lost end Leonard Marshall to the crosstown Jets before it regained the services of Taylor. Together, they formed a right side that became legendary in the NFL. Marshall never got the credit he deserved. Although his production might have slipped, his shoes remain big and empty, with young Mike Fox and younger Keith Hamilton expected to fill them after the Giants failed in their bid to lure Reggie White. Fox never has fit into the Giants' scheme. Hamilton, who was born in 1971, played well as a rookie, determined to prove it was a mistake to allow him to slip to the fourth round. He was pushing left end Enc Dorsey for playing time until the job on the right side became open. Nose tackle Erik Howard, like Dorsey, is a run-stopper. He was backed by rookie Corey Widmer last year. The selection of Michael Strahan with the first pick (second round) is another indication of the Giants' future strategy. The defensive end from Texas Southern was stationed with his father in the army in Germany and didn't play high school football until moving back as a senior. He is a project.

The return of Taylor at the same price that kept Simms depends on his recovery from Achilles tendon surgery. Taylor faces a huge challenge at age 34, the kind he appears to relish. Left linebacker Carl Banks, a big critic of the Handley/Rod Rust regime, must be rejuvenated on the other side. The Giants drafted Marcus Buckley because third-year man Kanavus McGhee is still struggling. The Giants paid dearly (three years, \$5.2 million) for free agent inside linebacker Carlton Bailey to help Pepper Johnson shore up a run defense that slipped from 16th in the league to 25th.

Rookie cornerback Philippi Sparks provided a bright spot in the secondary, where he filled in for the injured Mark Collins on the left side last season and is expected to challenge Perry Williams on the right side this time. Free safety Greg Jackson had an outstanding year, leading the team in interceptions with four and

forced fumbles with three. He was second in tackles. Strong safety Myron Guyton is backed by Lamar McGriggs and rookie Corey Raymond. The Giants lost backup and special-teams ace Reyna Thompson to New England, so Jesse Campbell and Mike Wright must assume the slack.

The Giants paid punter Sean Landeta a whopping four-year \$3.2 million contract to stick around despite an anterior cruciate injury that knocked him out last season. Place-kicker Matt Bahr also missed much of the season with injury, and was missed. Thompson will be hard to replace, but Meggett is one of the game's best return men.

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
41	Allred, Brian	DB	5-10	175	24	CSU-Sacramento
24	Anderson, Otis	RB	5-2	225	36	Miami
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	37	Penn State
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	29	North Carolina
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	180	29	Fresno State
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	31	Michigan State
82	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	249	29	Cameron
17	Brown, Derek	QB	6-5	215	23	Duke
86	Brown, David	TE	6-6	252	23	Notre Dame
2	Brown, Eric	P	6-2	215	25	Purdue
33	Bunch, Jarrod	FB	6-2	248	31	Michigan
80	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	185	25	Michigan
37	Campbell, Jesse	S	6-1	215	24	N.C. State
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	29	Cal-Fullerton
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	26	Alabama
99	DeGosse, Steve	LB	6-2	248	31	Boston College
71	Dillard, Stacey	DE	6-5	288	25	Oklahoma
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	29	Notre Dame
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	28	Michigan
73	Flynn, Mark	DE	6-7	230	25	Penn State
93	Fox, Mike	DE	6-6	275	26	West Virginia
10	Graham, Kent	QB	6-5	220	25	Ohio State
29	Guyton, Myron	S	6-1	205	26	E. Kentucky
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE	6-6	280	22	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	215	24	Georgia
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	258	29	Washington St
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	200	27	LSU
	Jackson, Mark	WR	5-9	180	30	Purdue
69	Johnson, Jim	T	6-5	305	25	Michigan State
62	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	29	Ohio State
68	Jones, Clarence	T	6-5	280	26	Maryland
0	Jones, Victor	RB	5-9	220	26	LSU
26	Kaunmeyer, Thom	S	5-11	190	26	Oregon
61	Kralch, Bob	G	6-3	288	27	Iowa
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	210	31	Towson State
91	McCahey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	25	Stanford
98	McGhee, Kanavus	LB	6-4	257	25	Cincinnati
38	McGriggs, Lamar	DB	6-3	210	25	W. Illinois
30	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	180	27	Towson St.
57	Miller, Corey	LB	6-2	255	25	South Carolina
60	Moore, Eric	T	6-5	290	26	Indiana
83	Myles, Lee	WR	5-6	156	24	Baylor
67	Novak, Jeff	OT	6-6	300	26	SW Texas St
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	34	B.V.
84	Pierce, Aaron	TE	6-5	245	24	Washington
51	Powell, Andre	LB	6-1	225	24	Penn State
39	Raymond, Corey	S	5-11	180	24	LSU
95	Reynolds, Ed	LB	6-5	242	32	Virginia
72	Riesenbreg, Doug	T	6-5	275	28	California
86	Roberts, William	T	6-5	280	31	Ohio State
91	Rooks, George	DE	6-4	275	23	Syracuse
	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	30	JCLA
11	Simms, Phil	QB	6-3	214	37	Morehead State
88	Smith, Joey	WR	5-10	177	24	Louisville
22	Sparks, Philippi	CB	5-11	186	24	Arizona State
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	34	North Carolina
34	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	195	27	Jackson State
90	Widmer, Corey	DE	6-3	275	25	Montana State
59	Williams, Brian	C-G	6-5	300	27	Minnesota
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	32	N.C. State
3	Willis, Ken	K	5-11	190	27	Kentucky
36	Wright, Mike	CB	6-0	182	24	Washington St

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Strahan, Michael	DE	6-4	262	Texas Southern
3	Buckley, Marcus	LB	6-3	235	Texas A&M
4	Bishop, Greg	OT	6-5	291	Pacific
5	Thigpen, Tommy	LB	6-2	242	North Carolina
6	Davis, Scott	G	6-3	289	Iowa
7	Peterson, Todd	K	5-10	175	Georgia
8	Armstead, Jesse	LB	6-1	238	Miami



STEVE BEUERLEIN

CARDINALS 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis, 67 points on 28 extra points and 13 field goals 5th
RUSHING—Johnson, 734 yards on 178 carries, 4.1 avg., 6 TDs 7th
PASSING—Chandler, 245 of 413 attempts for 2,832 yards and 15 TDs 8th
RECEIVING—Proehl, 80 receptions for 744 yards, 12.4 avg., 3 TDs 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Massey, 5 for 147 yards, 29.4 avg., 3 TDs 14th
PUNTING—Camarillo, 54 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 73 yards 7th
PUNT RETURNS—Bailey, 20 for 263 yards, 13.2 average 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bailey, 28 for 690 yards, 24.6 average 2nd
SACKS—Harvey, 6.0 sacks T15th

SCHEDULE

August 7 LA RAMS (N)
 14 At Chicago (N)
 21 At San Diego (N)
 27 DENVER (N)

1993 SCHEDULE 1992 SCORES

September	5 At Philadelphia	3-7
	2 At Washington	3-31
	19 DALLAS (N)	10-16
October	28 At Detroit	
	3 OPEN DATE	
	10 NEW ENG. AND	
	1 WASHINGTON	27-24
	24 At San Francisco	24-14
	31 NEW ORLEANS	21-30
November	7 PHILADELPHIA	14-3
	14 At Dallas	20-31
	2 OPEN DATE	
	28 At New York Giants	21-31
December	5 LA RAMS	20-4
	12 DETROIT	
	19 At Seattle	
	26 NEW YORK GIANTS	9-0
January	2 At Atlanta	17-20

PHOENIX CARDINALS

As soon as the NFL awards points for trying, the Cardinals will rank among league favorites. Playing in the toughest division and threatened with a season-ticket base dwindling close to the 16,600 of basketball's Phoenix Suns, the Cardinals went to work during the offseason as never before.

Owner Bill Bidwill's delayed decision to retain coach Joe Bugel was not the last decision of a franchise determined to rise from its own ashes. After winning an NFC-low four games, the Cards were the first team to officially open the bidding for veteran free agents, calling prospective players at 12:01 A.M. on March 1. The Cards landed topflight receiver Gary Clark from the Redskins and top backup quarterback Steve Beuerlein from the Cowboys, creating double hits with in a division so tough it has provided the last three Super Bowl champions. The Cards figured if they couldn't beat them, steal them. Getting director of college scouting Bob Ackles from the Cowboys may have been the most important heist.

It didn't take geniuses to label Georgia running back Garrison Hearst as the best player in the draft, but it did take aggressiveness to make sure the Cardinals landed him. With the fourth pick, they traded away running back Johnny Johnson to the Jets to guarantee no one else would get Hearst. Then, with two

more picks in the top 32, the Cardinals made one more trade and came up with two huge offensive tackles, Ernest Dye and Ben Coleman, to shore up a line that is aging. The Cardinals lost all-pro safety Tim McDonald to San Francisco via free agency, but rebounded by signing another all-pro, Green Bay's Chuck Cecil, and a Philadelphia backup, John Booty.

This is a team with a long way to go, but the offseason effort stirred Arizona fans who had grown cynical in only five short years. Beuerlein's acquisition was doubly impressive because the Cardinals were heavily involved in the pursuit of Joe Montana up until the last minute. When that fell through, the Cardinals were still able to land Beuerlein. The former Raider starter and Cowboy backup with starting playoff experience is expected to step right into the picture unless Chris Chandler has other ideas. Chandler took the job from the injured Timm Rosenbach last year and refused to give it back, posting career highs in virtually every offensive category. With Beuerlein, Chandler, and young Tony Sacca, the Cardinals think they have the ingredients to compete at the most important position.

With Hearst, they know they have the running back. Despite an old knee injury discovered before the draft, Hearst left little doubt among scouts, who compared him with Buffalo's Thurman Thomas. Before the 1988 draft

teams got scared of Thomas's knee and left him for Buffalo in the second round. Three Super Bowls later, the Bills send thanks. The Cards had no qualms about giving up Johnson to the Jets even after 156- and 146-yard games late in the season. Hearst is the real deal, an every-down, multitasking franchise player who will be allowed approximately 15

minutes to learn the playbook. The Cards were 26th in the league in rushing last season—no way to make a dent in the NFC East. They added running back Ron Moore in the draft to complement the backups Ivory Lee Brown, Johnny Bailey, and Larry Centers. Bailey and Centers are valuable receivers.

Clark adds instant credibility to a receiving corps that already had consistency in Rocky Proehl and speed in Randal Hill. Proehl is an emerging star who led the club with 60 receptions. Hill had 58 and should benefit from the arrival of the tough, competitive Clark, who has some life left after a stellar career in Washington. Tight ends Walter Reeves and Derek Ware and H-back Butch Rolle are expected to play important roles in the one-back attack featuring Hearst.

The offensive line needs to catch up fast to give Bugel a chance to fulfill B'dwill's expressed desire for a winning season. Left tackle Luis Sharpe is aging but still valuable. After losing the versatile Danny Vilia (12 starts at three positions) to Kansas City in free agency, there are spots open for rookies Dye or Coleman, two 315-plus pounders who could challenge either Sharpe or right tackle Rick Cunningham. Left guard Mark May '33, was the only player on the field for every snap. Right guard Lance Smith was the only lineman to start every game at the same position. Veteran Bill Lewis fought injuries at center, where Ed Cunningham is expected to emerge in his second season. The Cards are still waiting for Joe Wolf to fulfill his first-round promise after losing backup Vernice Smith to Chicago.

While the newcomers create excitement on offense, it is Fritz Shurmur's defense that needs to continue developing for the Cards to have a chance. It finished 24th in the league last year, but over the last 11 games allowed opponents 100 yards rushing only three times, a sure sign of progress. After injuries to linebackers Ken Harvey and Freddie Joe Nunn, the innovative Shurmur came up with a "Big Nickel" formation featuring four huge linemen, two inside backers and five backs.

Eric Swann is fast developing from a prospect who never played college football to a force. Whether the Cards played a 3-4 or a 4-3, Swann was effective at end and tackle on the left side. Paired beside the surprising 325-pound rookie tackle Keith Rucker, Swann looked small at 300. Joined by second-year end Mike Jones, rookie Mike Bankston, and Tampa Bay acquisition Reuben Davis, Swann and Rucker gave Shurmur something to work with. After Harvey and Nunn went down, inside backers Eric Hill and Tyrone Stowe answered the call and cornerback Lorenzo Lynch became the fifth back. With the return of Harvey from serious knee surgery questionable, the Cards are expected to play with the 4-3 as the base defense.

In the secondary big hitter Cecil is an Arizona kid who should make an impression if not totally fill the big shoes left by McDonald. Cecil is not a strong safety and neither is Booty Michael Zordich is a capable free safety, but

adjustments obviously are in store in the middle. At cornerback the Cardinals line up with two very good players in Aeneas Williams and Robert Massey. After returning three interceptions for touchdowns, Massey earned a Pro Bowl trip. Lynch is a capable reserve.

Special teams are a bright spot, with punter Rich Camarillo and return man Bailey both Pro Bowl players. Camarillo kicked only two touchbacks and Chicago reject Bailey led the NFL in punt-return average. Place-kicker Greg Davis made only half of his 26 field-goal attempts and suffered from the deteriorating turf in Sun Devil Stadium.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
20	Bailey, Johnny	RB	5-8	187	26	Texas A&M
63	Bankston, Michael	DL	6-2	290	23	San Houston St.
70	Brown, Ivory Lee	T	6-5	287	24	Iowa
7	Brown, Steve	QB	6-2	209	28	Notre Dame
25	Chapin, Eric	RB	5-9	90	23	North Carolina
42	Quahly, John	S	6-0	180	28	T.C.
54	Proehl, Rocky	LB	6-2	240	28	Wake Forest
13	Brown, Ivory Lee	RB	6-2	245	24	Ark. Pine Bluff
16	Camarillo, Rich	P	5-11	195	34	Washington
26	Coleman, Ben	FS	6-0	90	29	Arizona
37	Centers, Larry	RB	6-0	212	25	Stephen F. Austin
17	Chambers, Chris	QB	6-4	220	28	Washington
84	Clark, Jerry	WR	5-9	173	31	James Madison
49	Cunningham, Ed	...C	6-3	290	24	Washington
64	Cunningham, Rick	T	6-6	307	26	Texas A&M
21	Davis, Reuben	CB	5-10	180	23	Garrison
5	Davis, Greg	K	6-0	95	28	Calicut
93	Davis, Gordon	DL	6-4	292	28	North Carolina
22	Dunsmuir, Dave	SS	6-2	255	33	Notre Dame
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR	5-9	188	27	NM Highlands
94	Faulkner, Jeff	DE	6-4	290	29	Southern
31	Harris, Joe	S	5-9	90	27	Sam Houston St.
56	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-3	230	28	California
41	Hearst, Dave	DL	6-2	280	26	Arkansas Central
58	Hill, Rocky	LB	6-2	262	27	SU
8	Hill, Randa	WR	5-0	180	24	Miami
97	Hunt, Steve	LB	6-2	245	30	Livingston
41	Jackson, Robert	WR	6-1	90	24	Central State
53	Kirk, Gar	LB	6-1	250	30	Florida State
81	Jones, Mike	WR	6-0	200	29	Indiana
45	Jones, Brock	LB	6-2	245	27	Virginia Tech
75	Johnson, Mike	DE	6-4	287	24	N.C. State
67	Kaufman, Ken	...C	6-3	275	34	Hawaii
5	Kenny, Bill	...C	6-6	290	30	Nebraska
28	Leach, Steve	CB	5-9	176	25	Texas A&M
29	Leach, Steve	CB	5-0	200	30	CU
41	Massey, Robert	CB	6-0	188	26	N.C. Central
3	May, Mark	...G	6-6	300	33	Pittsburg St.
60	Nunn, Freddie Joe	LB	6-4	249	31	Mississippi
27	O'Brien, Chris	CB	5-9	183	25	Oregon
87	Proehl, Rocky	WR	6-0	185	25	Wake Forest
89	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-1	265	28	Auburn
82	Rolle, Butch	HB	6-4	250	29	Michigan State
3	Rosenbach, Timm	QB	6-1	215	27	Washington St.
79	Rucker, Keith	DL	6-3	325	25	Ohio Wesleyan
19	Schultz, Jay	QB	6-5	230	23	Penn State
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-5	280	33	...LA
52	Small, Leslee	LB	6-1	240	27	Eastern Kentucky
61	Smith, Lance	C	6-1	286	30	LSU
90	Stowe, Tyrone	ILB	6-1	247	28	Rutgers
98	Swann, Eric	DL	6-4	299	23	None
95	Taylor, Alphonso	DL	6-1	325	24	Temple
85	Ware, Derek	HB	6-2	255	26	Central State
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB	5-10	192	25	Southern
60	Williams, Willie	T	6-6	295	26	LSU
68	Wolf, Joe	DL	6-6	296	27	Boston College
81	Wolf, Willie	TE	6-4	240	25	Wyoming
38	Zordich, Michael	WS	6-1	201	30	Penn State

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Hoskins, Jamison	RB	5-9	205	Georgia
2	Joy, Ernest	OT	6-6	330	South Carolina
2	Coleman, Ben	OT	6-5	316	Wake Forest
4	Moore, Ronald	RB	5-10	228	Pittsburg St.
6	Wallerstedt, Brett	LB	6-1	239	Arizona State
7	White, Will	DB	6-1	198	Florida
8	Brown, Chad	DE	6-7	261	Mississippi
8	Anderson, Steve	WR	6-5	210	Grambling

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Only the 49ers and Bills have won more regular-season games than the Eagles over the last five seasons. Only nine teams in NFL history have put together the impressive string of five 10-victory seasons the Eagles have enjoyed. It's the postseason that kills Philadelphia. This year, the offseason was no friend, either. Losing defensive star Reggie White to free agency was a blow that made the Eagles more defensive than ever.

With owner Norman Braman scrambling before his team self-destructs, the Eagles signed 49er sacker Tim Harris to help close the wound left by the departure of White and the tragic death of Jerome Brown in the 1991 offseason. Using the supplemental pick they received for losing White (the Eagles get another No. 1 pick next year for White), they traded down in the draft to add quantity. (Braman also fought for additional picks after losing tight end Keith Jackson to free agency in 1992.) If the Eagles lose linebacker Seth Joyner and defensive end Clyde Simmons, they expect more supplemental picks.

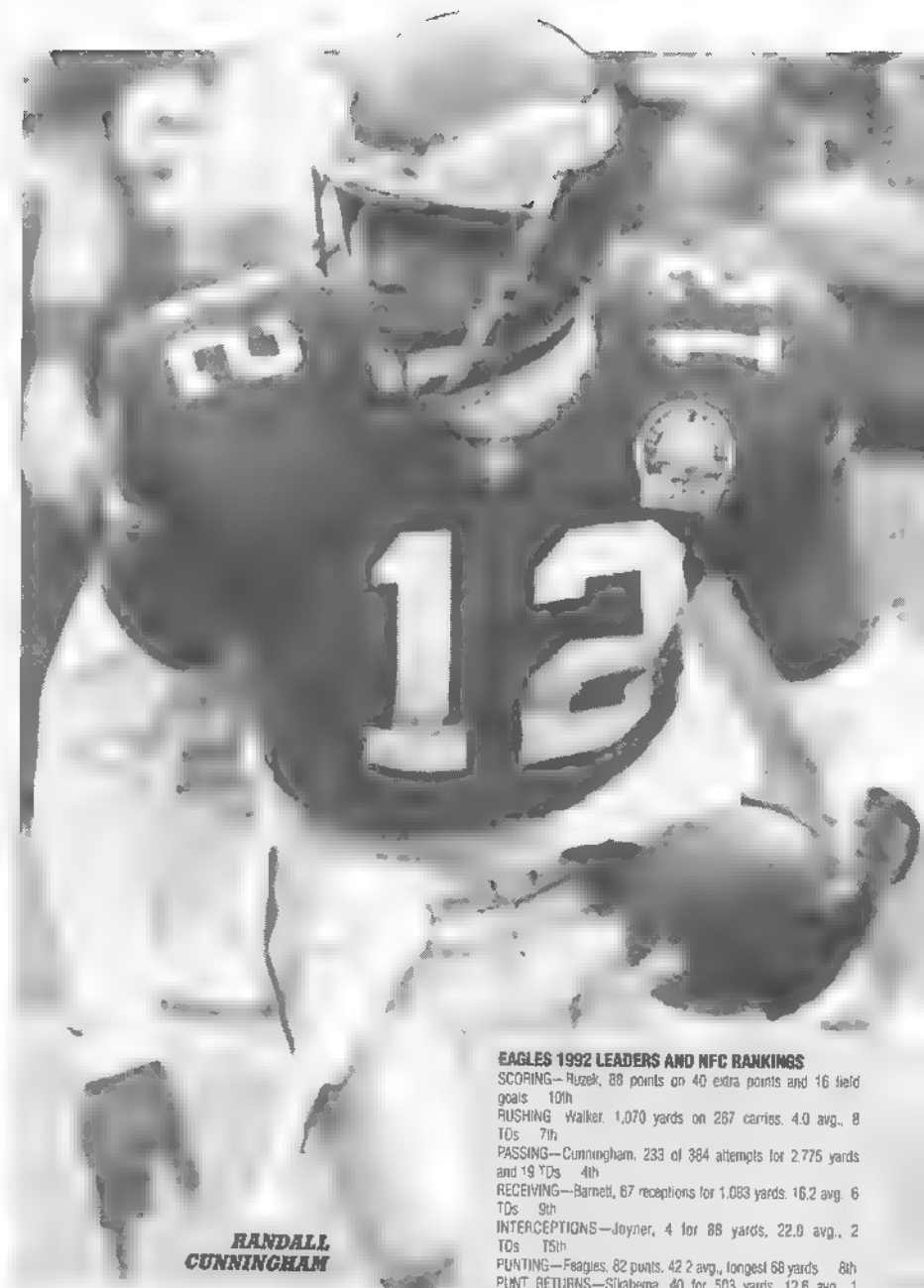
The Eagles look like a team conceding to transit on. They fielded the seventh-ranked offense and the sixth defense last year, but got blown out of the divisional playoffs, 34-10, by archrival Dallas. They beat New Orleans for their first postseason victory since 1980, yet the defense that occasionally terrorizes oppo-



HERSCHEL WALKER

nents gave up 360 and 346 yards in the two playoff games. In four playoff losses since 1988, the Eagles have been outscored 92-35. Beating the Saints in New Orleans was supposed to knock the monkey off their backs. But the loss to the Cowboys felt like a gorilla climbing aboard. Coach Rich Kotite did a yeoman job painting a happy face on the situation. "This season has to be looked at as a positive, and as time goes on, people will do that," he said. Indeed, it might have been as good as the Eagles are going to get.

Randall Cunningham, once the franchise, was benched by Kotite during a slump follow-



RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

ing a 4-0 start. His replacement, Jim McMahon, left via free agency. When Cunningham returned, he said the benching taught him nothing. After McMahon left town, so did the experienced David Archer, so the Eagles had only young Casey Weldon to back up Cunningham. Cunningham's statistics were impressive, as usual. His passer rating of 87.3 ranked fifth in the league. But doubts about his ability to elevate his team to another level become more real with every disappointing finish. The doubts only serve to increase the pressure and decrease the margin for error.

Losing top receiver Keith Jackson didn't help Cunningham or the Eagles' passing attack that dropped to 23rd in the league. Keith Byars replaced Jackson at tight end and caught 56 passes, but Byars is an unconventional player without a true position. While the Eagles were looking for more help at tight end, signing the facing Mark Bavaro, Byars was looking for new horizons in free agency. Big running back James Joseph is another Byars-type with receiving skills. Wide receiver Fred

EAGLES 1992 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Ruzek, 88 points on 40 extra points and 16 field goals. 10th
RUSHING—Walker, 1,070 yards on 287 carries. 4.0 avg., 8 TDs. 7th
PASSING—Cunningham, 233 of 384 attempts for 2,775 yards and 19 TDs. 4th
RECEIVING—Barnett, 67 receptions for 1,083 yards. 16.2 avg., 6 TDs. 9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Joyner, 4 for 88 yards, 22.0 avg., 2 TDs. 15th
PUNTING—Feagles, 82 punts, 42.2 avg., longest 68 yards. 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Sikahema, 40 for 503 yards, 12.6 avg., 1 TD. 3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Sikahema, 26 for 528 yards, 20.3 average. 12th
SACKS—Simmons, 19.0 sacks. 1st

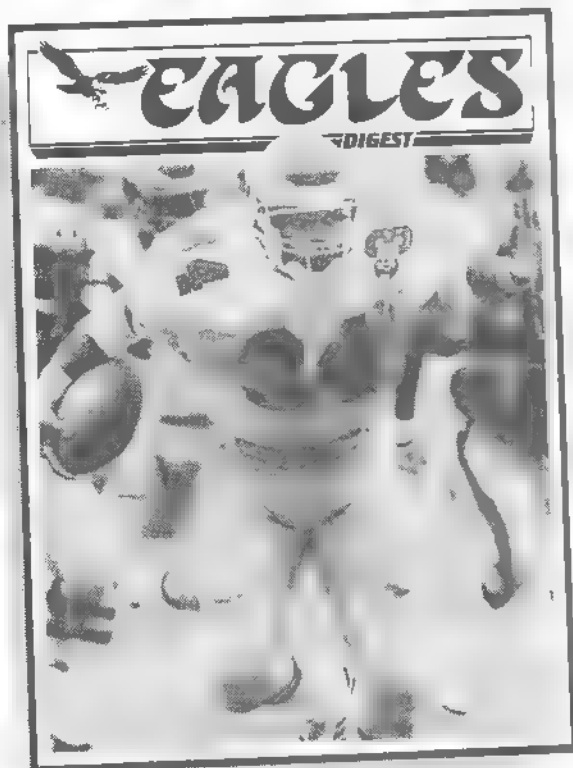
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	31	New Orleans at Tokyo, Japan (TV)
August	8	CHICAGO (N)
	13	At N.Y. Jets (N)
	21	ATLANTA (N)
	27	At Cincinnati (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

		1992 SCORES
September	5	PHOENIX..... 7-3
	12	At Green Bay..... 24-27
	19	WASHINGTON..... 17-13
	26	OPEN DATE
October	3	At N.Y. Jets.....
	10	CHICAGO.....
	17	At N.Y. Giants..... 47-34
	24	OPEN DATE
November	31	DALLAS..... 31-7
	7	At Phoenix..... 31-14
	14	MIAMI.....
	21	N.Y. GIANTS..... 20-10
	28	At Washington..... 12-16
December	6	At Dallas (N)..... 10-20
	12	BUFFALO.....
	19	At Indianapolis (N).....
	26	NEW ORLEANS (N)..... 15-13
January	3	At San Francisco (N)..... 14-20

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Barnett developed into a Pro Bowl talent opposite Calvin Williams, who led the club in touchdown receptions. They give Cunningham two fine targets, and the draft of second-rounder Victor Bartey should fill the need for a third wideout.

After signing the unwanted Herschel Walker, the Eagles jumped from 21st to second in the NFL in rushing. Walker showed signs of life with 1,070 yards (4.0 average) and eight touchdowns. But the real star of the backfield became another forgotten player, Heath Sherman. Bench for a year and a half, Sherman responded with 583 yards in only 112 carries—a league-leading 5.2 average—after the Eagles resurrected him. By season's end, Sherman was the go-to guy.

The offensive line took a free-agency hit with the departure of left tackle Ron Heller, so the Eagles drafted Lester Holmes No. 1. Right tackle Antone Davis showed improvement in his second season and surprising guard Eric Floyd gives the Eagles two 310-plus pounders on the right side. Mike Schaad was having his best season at left guard before a groin pull ended it early. Backups Darryl Smith, Rob

Selby, and Brian Baldinger are experienced, but the Eagles need starters to step up.

The addition of Harris on defense fills the need for a pass rusher to replace White. With right end Clyde Simmons and linebacker/rusher Harris, the Eagles have the 1-2 sackers in football. But Harris played an unconventional role in a 3-4 defense, rushing nearly all the time while others worried about the run. How he fits will be coordinator Bud Carson's problem. White's backup was young Andy Harmon, who has the size and quickness suited for end if he can shake injuries. Simmons had 19 sacks (Harris had 17), including at least one in 12 games. He would be difficult to replace. Backup lineman Leon Seals also left via free agency, so the tackle spots are left to a combination of Mike Golic, Mike Pits, and Tommy Jeter. First-round pick Leonard Renfro, who came out of Colorado early, is more of an end and will get a chance to play in a hurry.

Joyner had just as impressive a season in 1992 as he did in '91 when he was a Pro Bowl starter. Like Washington's Wilber Marshall, Joyner is too well-rounded to put up the big sack numbers of the pass-rushing specialists. He had 121 tackles and shared the team lead in interceptions with four and forced fumbles with three. He's a big-time player who gave the Eagles a formidable left side next to White. Middle linebacker Byron Evans had an outstanding season, calling signals and leading the club in tackles. He shared the team lead in interceptions and forced fumbles with Joyner, an unusual accomplishment for a pair of linebackers in a 4-3 defense. Right-side backer William Thomas, although light, is an active and developing player who has fine instincts. Backups Ken Rose, Scott Kowalkowski, Britt

Hager, and Ephraim Bartey are tough, special-teams types.

Injuries and late signings hampered the Eagles in their secondary as they fell from first to 12th in pass defense. Safeties Andre Waters and Wes Hopkins both were knocked out by the end of the season. Pro Bowl cornerback Eric Allen is the class of the unit and was complemented nicely by the surprising emergence of Mark McMillian, labeled by Carson as the best rookie cover man he had ever seen. His development helped fill the void created when a knee injury knocked Ben Smith out for the season. The departure of safety John Booty and backup corner Zel Jenkins necessitated the drafting of third-rounders Derrick Frazier and Mike Reid.

The return capability of Vasi Sikahema was a highlight of the special teams. Roger Ruzek made only 16 of 25 field goals. Punter Jeff Feagles is coming off a good year.

ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
72	Alexander, David	C	6-3	275	29	Tulsa
21	Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	80	28	Arizona State
82	Baldinger, Brian	OL	6-4	278	33	Duke
24	Balton, Jimmy	CB	5-9	182	23	Auburn
86	Barnett, Eric	WR	6-0	99	27	Arkansas State
50	Bartley, Curtis	LB	6-2	214	24	Florida
	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	248	30	Noire Dame
83	Beach, Pat	TE	6-4	250	34	Washington St.
52	Bradford, Jack	LB	6	227	25	Maryland
39	Brooks, Tony	QB	6-0	230	24	Noire Dame
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	238	30	Ohio State
2	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	205	30	JN
78	Javis, Antonio	T	6-4	425	26	Tennessee
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	235	29	Arizona
5	Feagles, Jeff	P	6	205	27	Memphis
95	Flores, Mike	DE	6-1	256	27	Louisville
61	Floyd, Eric	G	6-5	311	28	Auburn
33	Frizzell, William	S	6-3	206	31	N. Carolina Cent.
25	Gernant, Tom	S	6-1	195	28	Ohio U.
90	Golic, Mike	DT	6-5	275	31	Noire Dame
81	Green, Roy	WR	6-1	195	38	Henderson St.
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	225	27	Texas
91	Harmon, Andy	DT	6-4	265	24	Kent State
	Harris, Tim	LB/DE	6-6	258	29	Memphis St.
48	Hopkins, Wes	FS	6-1	215	32	SMU
75	Hudson, John	OL	6-2	275	25	Auburn
98	Jeter, Tommy	DT	6-5	282	24	Texas
87	Johnson, Maurice	TE	6-2	243	26	Temple
32	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	26	Auburn
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	235	29	UTEP
57	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB	6-2	228	25	Noire Dame
29	McMillian, Mark	CB	5-7	162	23	Alabama
38	Miano, Rich	S	6-1	200	31	Hawaii
36	Neubert, Keith	TE	6-6	250	28	Nebraska
74	Pitts, Mike	DT	6-5	280	33	Alabama
49	Quasi, Brad	LB	6-2	246	25	Iowa
55	Rosen, Ken	LB	6	215	27	JN
7	Ruzek, Roger	K	6	200	33	Weber State
79	Schaad, Mike	C	6-5	290	30	Queens' Canada
75	Selby, Rob	C	6-3	286	26	Auburn
23	Sherman, Heath	RB	6-0	205	26	Texas A&M
22	Sikahema, Vasi	WR	5-9	96	31	BYU
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	29	Western Carolina
26	Smith, Ben	CB	5	185	26	Georgia
63	Smith, Darryl	T	6-5	276	29	Tennessee
30	Smith, Chris	CB	5-11	64	28	Missouri
27	Stacy, Brian	RB	5-11	203	25	Alabama
85	Sydney, Jeff	WR	5-6	170	24	Hawaii
51	Thomas, William	LB	6-2	218	25	Texas A&M
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6	225	31	Georgia
20	Waters, Andre	SS	5-11	200	31	Chapman St.
11	Weldon, Casey	QB	6-1	200	24	Florida St.
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	160	26	Purdue

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Holmes, Lester	OL	6-3	284	Jackson State
1	Renfro, Leonard	DT	6-2	292	Colorado
2	Bailey, Victor	WR	6-2	196	Missouri
3	Frazier, Derrick	CB	5-10	178	Texas A&M
3	Reid, Mike	SS	6-2	218	N.C. State
6	Oden, Derrick	LB	6-1	225	Auburn
7	Mickey, Joey	TE	6-5	276	Oklahoma
8	Skene, Doug	OT	6-6	288	Michigan

HEATH SHERMAN



PLAYOFF & SUPER BOWL RECAP

1992 NFL
FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	13	3	0	.813	409	243
Philadelphia	11	5	0	.688	354	245
Washington	9	7	0	.563	300	255
N.Y. Giants	6	10	0	.375	308	367
Phoenix	4	12	0	.250	243	332

Central Division

Minnesota	11	5	0	.688	374	249
Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	276	296
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	267	365
Chicago	5	11	0	.313	295	361
Detroit	5	11	0	.313	279	332

Western Division

San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	431	236
New Orleans	12	4	0	.750	330	202
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375	327	414
L.A. Rams	6	10	0	.375	313	363

AMERICAN

FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	11	5	0	.688	340	281
Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	361	283
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	216	302
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	220	315
New England	2	14	0	.125	205	363

Central Division

Pittsburgh	11	5	0	.688	299	225
Houston	10	6	0	.625	352	258
Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	272	275
Cincinnati	5	11	0	.313	274	364

Western Division

San Diego	11	5	0	.688	335	241
Kansas City	10	6	0	.625	348	282
Denver	8	8	0	.500	262	329
L.A. Raiders	7	9	0	.438	249	281
Seattle	2	14	0	.125	140	312

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Washington 24, Minnesota 7
Philadelphia 36, New Orleans 20
San Diego 17, Kansas City 0
Buffalo 41, Houston 38 (OT)

SECOND ROUND GAMES

San Francisco 20, Washington 13
Dallas 34, Philadelphia 10
Buffalo 24, Pittsburgh 3
Miami 31, San Diego 0

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dallas 30, San Francisco 20
Buffalo 29, Miami 10

SUPER BOWL XXVII

Dallas 52, Buffalo 17

SUPER BOWL XXVII

At Pasadena, CA, January 31, 1993

Buffalo	7	.3	.7	0	-17
Dallas	14	14	3	21	-52

Scoring

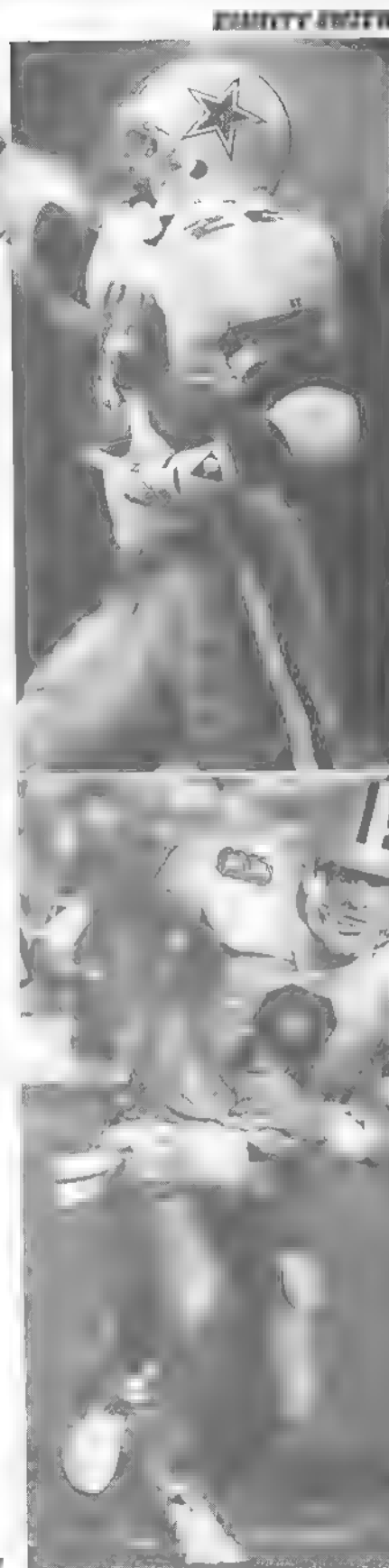
Buffalo: T. Thomas 2 run (Christie kick), 5:00 1st
Dallas: Novacek 23 pass from Alkman (Elliott kick), 13:24 1st
Dallas: J. Jones 2 fumble return (Elliott kick), 13:39 1st
Buffalo: FG Christie 21, 11:36 2nd
Dallas: Irvin 19 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 13:06 2nd
Dallas: Irvin 18 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 13:24 2nd
Dallas: FG Elliott 20, 6:39 3rd
Buffalo: Beebe 40 pass from Reich (Christie kick), 15:00 3rd
Dallas: Harper 45 pass from Aikman (Elliott kick), 4:56 4th
Dallas: E. Smith 10 run (Elliott kick), 6:48 4th
Dallas: Norton 9 fumble return (Elliott kick), 7:29 4th
Attendance: 98,374

Team Statistics

	Buffalo	Dallas
Points	17	52
Rushing yards	108	137
Passing yards	254	271
Return yards	90	114
Sacked-yards lost	4-22	1-2
Punts	3-45.3	3-43.7
Third downs	5-11	5-11
Fourth downs	0-2	0-1
Time of possession	28:48	31:12

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Buffalo: K. Davis 15-86, T. Thomas 11-19-1, Gardner 1-3, Reich 2-0; Dallas: E. Smith 22-108-1, Aikman 3-28, Gainer 2-1, Johnston 1-0, Beuerlein 1-0
Passing: Buffalo: Reich 18-31-194-1-2, Kelly 4-7-82-0-2, Dallas: Aikman 22-30-273-4-0
Receiving: Buffalo: Reed 8-152, Beebe 2-50-1, Tasker 2-30, K. Davis 3-16, Metzelaars 2-12, T. Thomas 4-10, McKelmer 1-6, Dallas: Irvin 6-114-2, Novacek 7-72-1, Harper 1-45-1, E. Smith 6-27, Johnston 2-15
Interceptions: Dallas: Everett 2-22, Washington 1-13, Brown 1-0
Sacks: Buffalo: Smith, Dallas: Everett, Haley, Jeffcoat, Lett
Missed Field Goals: None



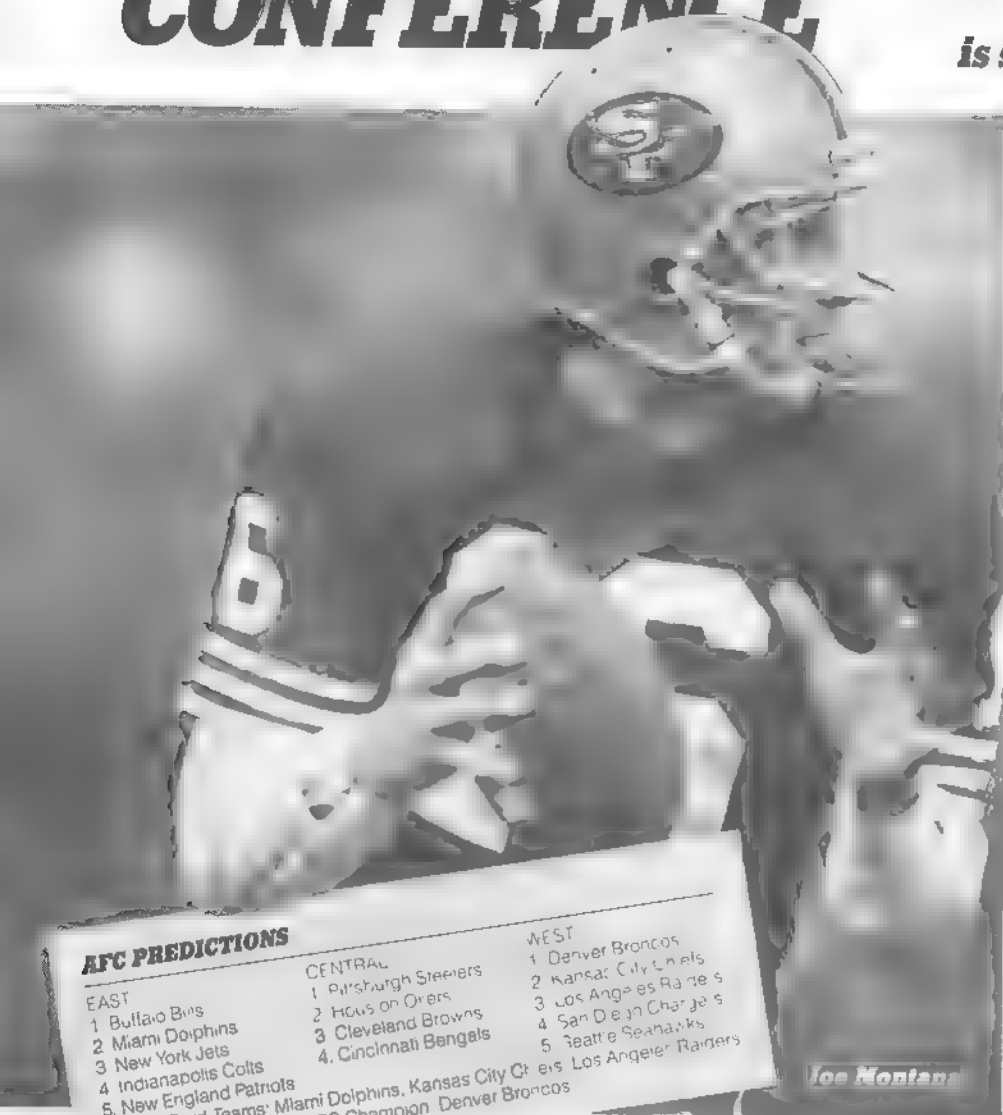
PHOTOGRAPHY

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

After a drought of impact players in the last several years, the AFC is suddenly awash in them.

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS



AFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

- 1 Buffalo Bills
- 2 Miami Dolphins
- 3 New York Jets
- 4 Indianapolis Colts
- 5 New England Patriots

CENTRAL

- 1 Pittsburgh Steelers
- 2 Houston Oilers
- 3 Cleveland Browns
- 4 Cincinnati Bengals

WEST

- 1 Denver Broncos
- 2 Kansas City Chiefs
- 3 Los Angeles Raiders
- 4 San Diego Chargers
- 5 Seattle Seahawks

Wild Card Teams: Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs
AFC Champion: Denver Broncos

Joe Montana

in Jackson's debut, then went on to wrest the Eastern Division championship from Buffalo.

This season, both Kansas City and the Los Angeles Raiders used free agency to acquire quarterbacks who did win Super Bowls—for NFC teams. The Chiefs have switched to San Francisco's offense and they hired the Master Joe Montana, to execute it. Now all they have to do is protect his abused body and give him a supporting cast that is at least a reasonable facsimile of the one he had with the 49ers. The Raiders signed Jeff Hostetler from the Giants. Hostetler is not the Raiders' prototype big-arm quarterback, but he knows his way to the victory stand, a location his new team doesn't visit all that often anymore.

The problem for the AFC, once again, is that it has many pretenders to its throne, but even after months of maneuvering in the free-agent market and then the college draft, there is no clear-cut favorite to end Buffalo's three-year hold on the championship. In fact, it isn't clear whether there will be an end to the Bills' run. The only thing that is clear is that the conference should be much more competitive.

The New York Jets leaped into free agency and came out with a number of glamorous aging players. Then they drafted the best defensive player in college football, Florida State linebacker Marvin Jones, and ended up with veteran running back Johnny Johnson in the bargain. The problem is that their new quarterback, ex-Bengal Boomer Esiason, hasn't played efficiently since 1989.

Indianapolis bought itself most of an offensive line, signing the Bills' Pro Bowl tackle, Will Wolford, and the Vikings' center Kirk Lowdermilk, but it still doesn't have the premier running back it seeks. Denver retooled its offensive line and backfield, but John Elway's corps of receivers is weaker. Miami signed aggressively, traded wisely, and drafted well, but the Dolphins still lost their most effective offensive lineman of last season, guard Harry Galbreath, and haven't solved their deficiencies at running back.

The Raiders lost Ronnie Lott, the great safety, then drafted Patrick Bates, the best safety to come out of college football this year. They added Hostetler, offensive tackle Gerald Perry, and running back Gaston Green. They will probably end up with Rocket Ismail from the Canadian League. But it still doesn't look like the group that will boost them to the top.

Pittsburgh and San Diego basically ran in place. Houston stood pat. Kansas City's sign-

up limp of zeal, as they were in the AFC championship game against Buffalo at home.

Don't discount Pittsburgh, which could return to the Super Bowl for the first time in 15 years, then discover that it does not have the quarterback to make a game of it.

Denver? Some AFC rooters don't even want to think about it.

The long-running AFC depression mopes on. The cycle of domination is almost certain to continue in 1993 in the NFC, where the three best teams in pro football reside, until some master stroke—or free agency—changes the NFL atmosphere.

It might not take much. The Dolphins provided a preview last October when they signed Keith Jackson, the Philadelphia Eagles' all-pro tight end, who had been declared a free agent by the courts. Instantly, Jackson became a favorite target of quarterback Dan Marino. Miami upset the Bills in Rich Stadium

● Name the ways the AFC could lose yet another Super Bowl.

The Buffalo Bills could establish a record by advancing to a fourth straight Super Sunday, then bumble their way into ignominy.

The Houston Oilers could reach their very first Super Bowl, lead by four touchdowns at half time, and then lose the game in Oilersque fashion, as they blew their playoff game in Buffalo last January after compiling a 35-3 lead in the third quarter.

San Diego might overachieve again this season, win the conference, and then be stricken with "buck fever," as it was in Miami when the Dolphins shut them out, 31-0, in the second round of the playoffs.

Fate might take Miami to Atlanta next January, but the Dolphins are capable of showing

ing of Montana was the most dramatic move, but the Chiefs' protection allowed Dave Krieg to be sacked 48 times last year—and he's more mobile than Montana.

Buffalo was diminished by free agency. The question is: by how much? Wolford was a major loss. Glenn Parker will be shifted from right guard to replace him, meaning there will be two changes in the line, which has been the heart of the offense. The Bills also lost two inside linebackers, starter Shane Conlan and backup Canton Bailey, but they have been linebacker-rich for a couple of years and may be able to replace them. The other free-agency losses were fringe players. The Bills remain a talented team that does not have a great deal of age. The football world may be sick of seeing them lose in the Super Bowl, but that doesn't mean they won't show up for an unprecedented fourth consecutive appearance.

What could make a pronounced difference in the AFC races are altered strategies. Both Denver and Kansas City have changed to the

San Francisco style of passing attack. Jim Fassel, who was Elway's quarterback coach at Stanford, was hired by the Broncos as their offensive coordinator to install the new system. There is an all-out commitment. Rod Bernstein, a power back with good hands, was signed from San Diego as a free agent. Robert Delpino, an accomplished third-down back, was signed from the Rams. In addition, Denver drafted Stanford's Glyn Milburn, who played under Bill Walsh, the system's innovator, and before him for Dennis Green, who also used the 49er style. Gaston Green, a traditional running back and the Broncos' leading ground-gainer, was traded to the Raiders.



Johnny Johnson

Kansas City hired Paul Hackett, the ex-head coach at the University of Pittsburgh who also worked under Walsh at San Francisco, to install the offense. It will help a great deal that Montana knows the system better than Hackett. The question in K.C. is whether the Chiefs have enough offensive players who can adapt well to the system.

Defensively, a number of AFC teams will use a lot more four-man fronts than they have in the recent past, although few of them may convert fully to the 4-3 as their basic defense.

The AFC's two new coaches, Bill Parcells in New England and Wade Phillips in Denver, are no rookies. The Patriots already were a conservative offensive team before Parcells arrived, and he will maintain his usual philosophy: "Power football wins." It won him two Super Bowl rings with the Giants. The easygoing Phillips, long the Broncos' defensive coordinator, introduced a more relaxed atmosphere to the team. Elway will operate under a less structured environment, and it could pay off.

The most interesting change took place in Houston, but it didn't involve a head-coaching change—at least for now. The controversial Buddy Ryan was shoved down Jack Pardee's throat as his new defensive coordinator after the Oilers blew their huge lead in the infamous playoff game in Buffalo. The situation is volatile, to say the least.

After a drought of impact players in the last several years, the AFC is suddenly awash in them. There is Montana in Kansas City, Ronnie Lott and Jones with the Jets, Hostetler with the Raiders, Jackson in Miami, and the rookie quarterbacks who were the top two draft



Ronnie Lott

1993 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

WR Webster Slaughter, Houston
 Irving Fryar, Miami
TE Keith Jackson, Miami
OT Will Wolford, Indianapolis
 John A. Kansas City
OG Steve Wniewski, Los Angeles
 Carlton Hasing, Pittsburgh
C Kent Hull, Buffalo
QB Joe Montana, Kansas City
RB Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
 Rod Bernstein, Denver
PK Pete Stoyanovich, Miami

DEFENSE

DE Bruce Smith, Buffalo
 Neil Smith, Kansas City
DT Cortez Kennedy, Seattle
 Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland
OLB Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh
 Junior Seau, San Diego
ILB Marvin Jones, New York
CB Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
 Dale Carter, Kansas City
SS Henry Jones, Buffalo
FS Eugene Robinson, Seattle
P Mark Royals, Pittsburgh
KR Dale Carter, Kansas City

picks, Drew Bledsoe in New England and Rick Mirer in Seattle.

Some of the individual honors for 1993 could go this way:

- **Rushing:** Thurman Thomas, Buffalo
- **Passing:** Joe Montana, Kansas City
- **Receiving:** Webster Slaughter, Houston
- **MVP Offense:** Joe Montana
- **MVP Defense:** Eugene Robinson, Seattle
- **Offensive Rookie of the Year:** Natrone Means, San Diego
- **Defensive Rookie of the Year:** Marvin Jones, New York
- **Coach of the Year:** Wade Phillips, Denver

Left Hostetler

BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills may have been written off by the public after their Super Bowl atrocity against Dallas, but they remain determined to get it right once and for all. Keep in mind that this is, essentially, the same team that overcame a third-quarter 32-point deficit to defeat Houston in the playoffs, the comeback of all comebacks. It's the same bunch that smoked the Dolphins in Joe Robbie Stadium to qualify for the Super Bowl as a wild card. The gang that swept the tough NFC West, including road victories in San Francisco and New Orleans, is not an odd team.

Could Buffalo appear in an unprecedented fourth straight Super Bowl? Psychologically, a good start seems essential for the Bills, and the schedule is their ally. They play four home games and get two byes in the first seven weeks. The lone road trip during that stretch will be a rematch with the Cowboys in Dallas on the second Sunday of the season.

A lot depends upon whether Jim Kelly's psychic wounds have healed. He was a baffled, confused quarterback against Dallas. His bad decisions and poor passes did as much as anything to steady the Cowboys after their shaky start. Kelly was stung by the criticism he took after the Super Bowl and now he's determined to make amends, but, at 33, he needs to be a more cerebral Kelly to do that. His old macho ways no longer get him by. If Kelly falters, Buffalo still has backup Frank Reich, who directed the miracle comeback against Houston. Reich now has the distinction of being the quarterback for the

BILLS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Christie, 115 points on 43 extra points and 24 field goals. 2nd
RUSHING—Thomas, 1,487 yards on 312 carries, 4.8 avg., 9 TDs. 2nd
PASSING—Kelly, 269 of 462 attempts for 3,457 yards and 23 TDs. 4th
RECEIVING—Reed, 65 receptions for 913 yards, 14.0 avg., 3 TDs. 7th
INTERCEPTIONS—Jones, 8 for 263 yards, 32.9 avg., 2 TDs. 1st
PUNTING—Mohr, 60 punts, 42.2 average, longest 61 yards. 8th
PUNT RETURNS—Hicks, 29 for 289 yards, 10.0 average. 6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Davis, 14 for 251 yards, 17.9 average. Unranked
SACKS—Smith, 14.0 sacks. T4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 30 At Detroit (N)
 August 7 Minnesota at Berlin, Germany
 12 At Kansas City (N)
 21 Tampa Bay at Orlando, FL (N)
 27 ATLANTA (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

1992 SCORES

September	5	NEW ENGLAND	16-7
	12	At Dallas	
	19	OPEN DATE	
	26	MIAMI	10-37
October	3	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	
	11	HOUSTON (N)	3-27
	17	OPEN DATE	
	24	At N.Y. Jets	24-20
November	1	WASHINGTON (N)	
	7	At New England	41-7
	15	At Pittsburgh (N)	28-20
	21	INDIANAPOLIS	38-0
	28	At Kansas City	
December	5	L.A. RAIDERS	3-20
	12	At Philadelphia	
	19	At Miami	26-20
	26	N.Y. JETS	17-24
January	2	At Indianapolis	13-16 (OT)



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BUFFALO BILLS FANS:

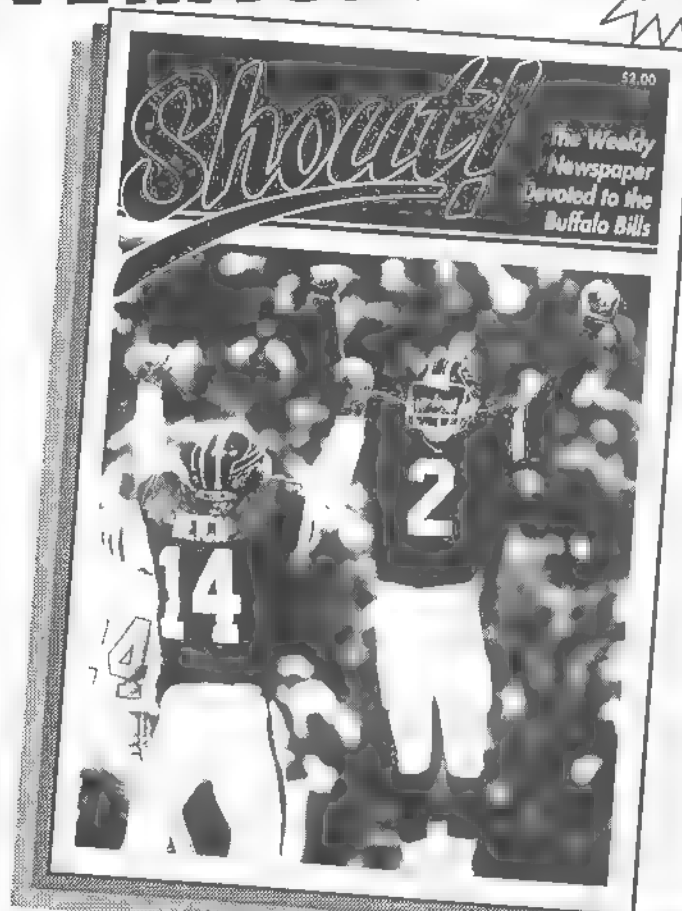
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winning side in the greatest comebacks in NFL and NCAA history, having rallied Maryland against Miami some years ago.

No matter the identity of the quarterback Buffalo is likely to be a more conservative offensive team. The No-Huddle attack lost its surprise element so more conventional tactics are expected. Since coach Marv Levy is able to rest Thurman Thomas occasionally because he has another excellent ball carrier in Kenneth Davis, the expectation is that the running game will be more prominent, especially with an altered offensive line. Buffalo ran well enough a year ago, leading the league with 2,436 yards. Thomas finished second in the AFC with 1,487 yards and Davis added 613. Thomas led the NFL in total yards from scrimmage for the fourth consecutive year.

The reluctant change in the offensive line is due to the loss of Pro Bowl left tackle Will Wolford to Indianapolis in a bitter free-agency arbitration. The plan is to install John Fina, last year's top draft pick, in Wolford's spot, but if that doesn't work, then Glenn Parker will be switched from right guard, which would create two changes, something Levy doesn't want to do. John Davis or Fina then would battle for Parker's job. The left guard, 35-year-

old Jim Ritcher, is in his 14th season. Center Kent Hull and right tackle Howard Ballard, who also went to the Pro Bowl, are fixtures.

There isn't much doubt that the passing game will be more conservative. The Bills just don't have much deep speed any longer. James Lofton grew old and the only burner left is Don Beebe, whose most notable feat in the Super Bowl was making a long, determined run to strip the ball from a Dallas defender as he was about score another touchdown. As a receiver, Beebe has great days and other days when he drops the ball. "We see so much zone coverage now that the speed receivers can't get open deep very often anyway," said John Butler, the new general manager. So Butler signed Bill Brooks, who led Indianapolis in receiving for six straight seasons before suffering a decline a year ago. Like Andre Reed, who went to the Pro Bowl again, Brooks runs well after the catch. Reed caught 65 passes to lead the team, but Kelly has to get him even more involved in the offense. If tight end Keith McKeller doesn't play better than he did after his long holdout in '93, 33-year-old Pete Metzelaars will get the call.

Defensively, the Bills lost two inside linebackers, Shane Conlan and Carlton Bailey, to free agency. Bailey had already lost his starting job when Cornelius Bennett was moved inside late in the season. Buffalo was considered linebacker-rich, so the expectation is that one of the youngsters, Mark Maddox or Keith Goganious, will be able to fill Conlan's slot. When Bennett went inside, speedy Marcus Patton was promoted to left outside linebacker. Darryl Talley is starting his 11th season on the right side.

Even though Buffalo led the AFC in defense against the run, there was a vulnerability because of a lack of size and depth in the line.

ner Thomas Smith of North Carolina. Levy hopes he develops even faster than strong safety Henry Jones, who went to the Pro Bowl after intercepting eight passes in his second season. Right corner Nate Odomes also played in the Pro Bowl. Free safety Mark Kelso will be challenged by second-year men Matt Darby and Kurt Schulz.

Special teams remain Levy's hallmark. Steve Christie upgraded the place-kicking with a 24-for-30 year, punter Chris Mohr handles the Rich Stadium winds well. Coverage demon Steve Tasker went to the Pro Bowl again, but punt returner Clifford Hicks signed with the Jets, creating a vacancy.

ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
86	Awalt, Rob	TE	6-5	238	29	San Diego St.
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	325	30	Auburn A&M
	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	288	27	Kentucky
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	184	29	Chadron State
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	27	Alabama
	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	195	29	Boston J
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	24	William & Mary
66	Crafts, Jerry	OT	6-6	333	25	Louisville
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	25	UCLA
65	Davis, John	G	6-4	310	28	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	206	31	TCU
85	Edwards, Al	WR	5-8	173	26	NW Louisiana
70	Fine, John	OL	6-4	282	24	Arizona
3	Fuher, Eddie	RB	5-9	201	25	LSU
35	Gardner, Carwell	FB	6-2	232	27	Louisville
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	32	California
95	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-2	237	25	Penn State
98	Gray, Jim	DT	6-2	285	24	West Virginia
26	Hale, Chris	CB	5-7	170	27	Southern Cal
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-6	275	25	North Dakota St.
52	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	235	27	Tulane
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	278	32	Mississippi St.
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	27	Mississippi St.
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	26	Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	33	Miami
39	Kelso, Mark	FS	5-11	185	30	William & Mary
81	Lambi, Brad	WR	5-10	171	26	Anderson (IN)
63	Lunger, Adam	C	6-4	268	33	Illinois
73	Lutish, Mike	NT	6-3	272	26	UCLA
68	Love, Sean	OL	6-3	285	25	Penn State
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	25	N. Michigan
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	245	29	Jacksonville St.
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	33	Wabash
9	Motik, Chris	P	6-5	215	27	Alabama
	Myslinski, Tom	G	6-2	291	25	Tennessee
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	28	Wisconsin
74	Parker, Glenn	OL	6-5	305	27	Arizona
44	Palmer, Greg	FB	5-11	220	25	Slippery Rock
93	Patton, James	OL	6-3	276	23	Texas
53	Patton, Marcus	LB	6-2	225	26	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	30	Georgia Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	29	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	DB	6-4	210	32	Maryland
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	35	N.C. State
8	Rodgers, Matt	DB	6-4	205	24	Iowa
19	Rose, Barry	WR	6-0	190	25	Wisc-Stevens Point
	Sanders, Glenn	LB	6-0	224	27	Louisiana Tech
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	206	25	E. Washington
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	30	Virginia Tech
61	Stephenson, Jeffery	LB	6-4	240	28	St. Cloud St.
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	33	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	183	31	Northwestern
87	Thomas, Ed	TE	6-3	245	27	Houston
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	27	Oklahoma St.
49	Turner, Nate	TE	6-1	241	24	Nebraska
18	Walsh, Chris	WR	6-1	185	25	Stanford
25	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-9	187	25	Texas A&M
29	Williams, James	CB	5-10	178	26	Fresno State
93	Wills, Keith	DE	6-1	263	34	Northwestern
22	Wren, Darryl	CB	6-0	186	26	Pittsburg State
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	270	30	Central Mo. St.

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Smith, Thomas	CB	6-0	190	North Carolina
2	Parrella, John	DT	6-3	289	Nebraska
4	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-2	194	Memphis State
5	Devlin, Mike	C	6-1	285	Iowa
6	Savage, Sebastian	DB	5-11	183	N.C. State
7	Lapina, Corbin	OT	6-3	285	Augustana (SD)
6	Harris, Willie	WR	6-1	196	Mississippi St.
8	Luneberg, Chris	OT	6-5	285	West Chester



Levy thinks that has been addressed with the drafting of Nebraska tough guy John Parrella, the return of last year's second-round draftee James Patton, from a broken hip, and the signing of Atlanta free agent Oliver Barnett. The best news was that the Bills matched San Francisco's offer to nose tackle Jeff Wright. Right end Bruce Smith returned with a vengeance last year, recording 14 sacks, while left end Phil Hansen had a half dozen sacks in the final month of his sophomore season. "We want to come at the opposition in waves now," said Levy, who plans to substitute liberally.

For the third time in four drafts, the Bills used their top pick for a defensive back. cor-



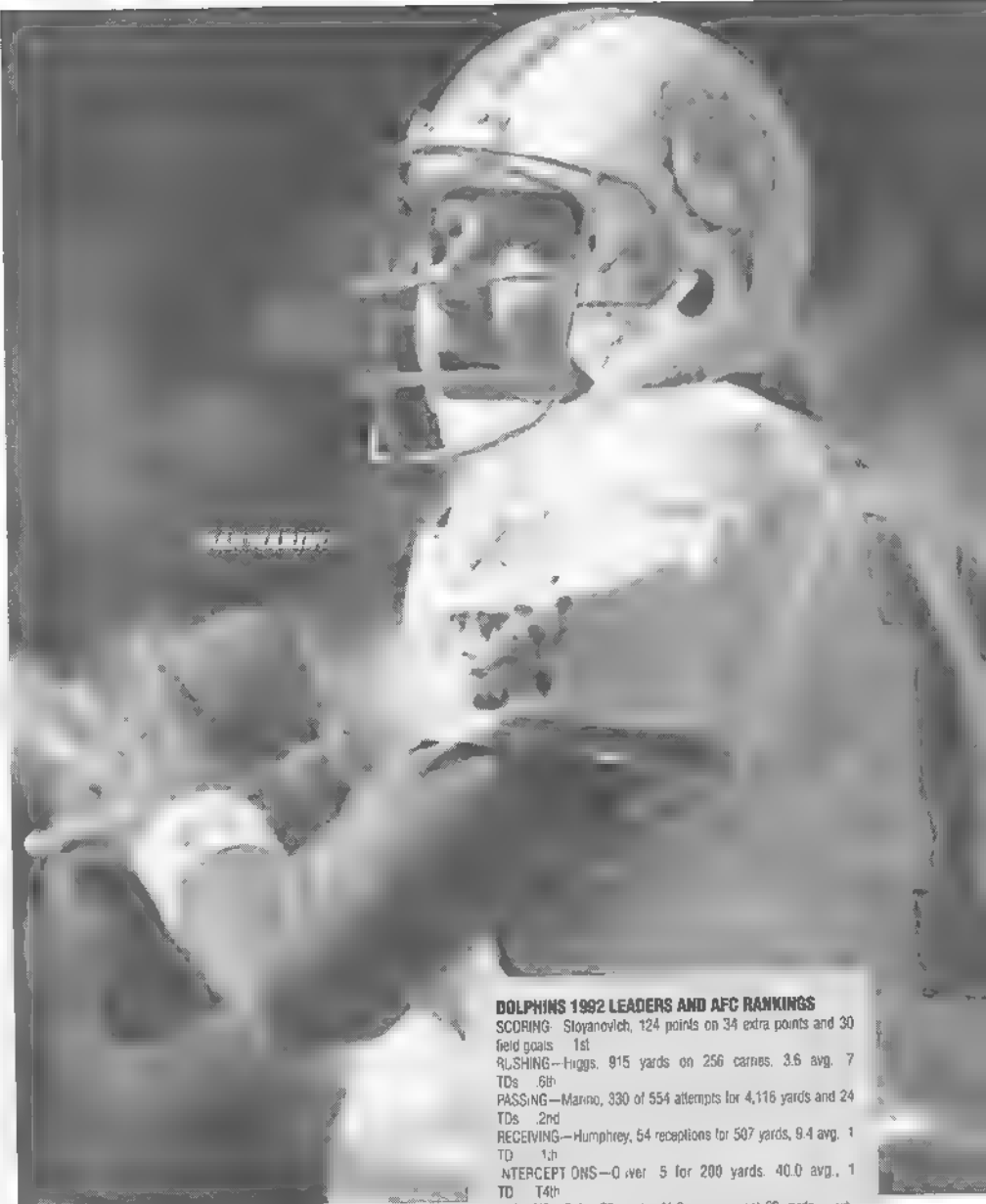
MIAMI DOLPHINS

Don Shula has to ask himself a blunt question. "Is my team substantially better off than it was back in January, when it got its hip pads blasted off in our own park by a wild-card team—the Buffalo Bills, in the AFC championship?"

The answer almost surely is no stronger than "maybe." The Dolphins have two new receivers, Irving Fryar and Mark Ingram, but there is no certainty they are better than the old ones, the quarrelsome Mark Clayton and the sometimes equally quarrelsome Mark Duper. The Dolphins signed a new right offensive tackle, Ron Heller of the Eagles, but they lost Harry Galbreath, the guard who had a better year than anyone on the Miami line. They didn't fully address their problem at running back either through free agency or the draft. Bobby Humphrey may be more occupied by the authorities in Alabama than he will be by the Dolphins' opponents. They also lost their blocking tight end Ferrelli Edmunds. Where the Dolphins should be better is in the natural improvement of their good young defensive players and with the addition of an intriguing No. 1 draft choice, O.J. McDuffie of Penn State, an all-round weapon.

The Miami offense may be Dan Marino against the world once again. The great quarterback has had better statistical years (4,116 yards, 24 touchdowns, 16 interceptions in '92), but few where he delivered such dollar-for-dollar value. He directed six come-from-behind victories, including one in Seattle in which he threw the winning touchdown pass a play after being knocked dizzy. Six of the Dolphin victories were accomplished by four points or less. Now Marino has two new feature receivers.

Fryar is 31 and only occasionally has he played to capacity. Just once, in 1991, did he



DOLPHINS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Sloanovich, 124 points on 34 extra points and 30 field goals. 1st
RUSHING—Higgs, 915 yards on 256 carries, 3.6 avg. 7 TDs. 6th
PASSING—Marino, 330 of 554 attempts for 4,116 yards and 24 TDs. 2nd
RECEIVING—Humphrey, 54 receptions for 507 yards, 9.4 avg. 1 TD. 1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Over 5 for 200 yards, 40.0 avg. 1 TD. 14th
PUNTING—Robby, 35 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 60 yards. unranked
PUNT RETURNS—Miller, 24 for 175 yards, 7.3 average. 12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 19 for 328 yards, 17.3 average. unranked
SACKS—Cox, 14.0 sacks. 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 6 At Atlanta (N)
 14 WASHINGTON (N)
 20 At Denver (N)
 28 N.Y. GIANTS (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

		1992 SCORES
September	5 At Indianapolis	28-0
	12 N.Y. JETS	19-17
	19 OPEN DATE	
October	26 At Buffalo ...	37-10
	4 WASHINGTON (N)	
	10 At Cleveland	27-23
	17 OPEN DATE ...	
	24 INDIANAPOLIS (N)	20-31
	31 KANSAS CITY	
November	7 At N.Y. Jets	14-26
	14 At Philadelphia	
	21 NEW ENGLAND	38-17
	25 At Dallas	
December	5 N.Y. GIANTS	
	13 PITTSBURGH (N)	
	19 BUFFALO ...	20-26
	27 At San Diego (N)	
January	2 At New England	16-13 (OT)

catches and five touchdowns. The leading receiver, Humphrey, is in limbo.

Mark Higgs, a plugger who led the team with 915 yards rushing, is the only proven ball carrier. Aaron Craver had a big game against San Diego in the playoff blowout, but he came close to being marked absent during the regular season. He's basically a third-down back, anyway. He'll be pushed this fall by rookie Terry Kirby of Virginia. Tony Page, the blocking back, carried only seven times, but he did catch 48 passes.

The offensive line is the biggest problem area. There is a new line coach, Kim Helton, who comes from the Raiders. He has to get more out of the left side, tackle Richmond Webb and guard Keith Sims, than it contributed last year. The center, Jeff Uhlenhake, underwent reconstructive knee surgery in the offseason. Heller takes over at right tackle. Galbreath's replacement may be huge Eddie Blake, drafted as a nose tackle last year but then sidelined for the season by injury. He played guard at Auburn. The only offensive lineman drafted in '92 was Chris Gray, also of

have 1,000 yards receiving, which is disappointing for a player of his skill. Ingram is a good receiver, but he never played at a Clayton-Duper level with the Giants. As long as Marino is breaking in new collaborators, he might lean toward McDuffie, who doesn't have a burner's speed but can run after he makes the catch and has a knack for the big play, whether catching a pass or returning a kickoff or punt. It wouldn't be a surprise if Shula ran him out of the backfield on occasion. While the newcomers learn, Marino can concentrate on tight end Keith Jackson, who joined Miami early last season and ended up with 48

Auburn. And the Dolphins won't get much blocking help from Jackson.

If the Dolphins are improved, it will have something to do with the maturing of three defensive stars, right end Marco Coleman, right outside linebacker Bryan Cox, and left cornerback Troy Vincent. Coleman was the

Dolphins' top rookie, making his move at mid-season when he had 13 tackles against Indianapolis, followed by 11 against Buffalo. He finished with six sacks and is capable of big things. Cox was the team's most valuable player, recording 14 sacks, more than any linebacker in Miami history. He also led in tackles with 127 (37 more than the runner-up), forced five fumbles, and made a diving interception against Seattle that helped lead to victory. Vincent got better as the season went on.

The line has been changed drastically over the last two years. Chuck Klingbeil arrived as the nose tackle last season. Larry Webster was moved ahead of veteran left end Jeff Cross before Shula opened camp. If Blake doesn't pan out at guard, he could be added to this mix. Young linebacker Dwight Hollier will challenge John Grimsley, who is returning from shoulder surgery, for the right to pair with John Offerdahl, who is recovering from abdominal surgery, on the inside. David Griggs plays opposite Cox. Vincent teams with the veteran J.B. Brown at the other corner. Louis Oliver is a force at free safety and Jarvis Williams is a dependable strong safety. The draft

brings two interesting prospects, cornerback Ronnie Bradford of Colorado and safety Robert O'Neal of Clemson.

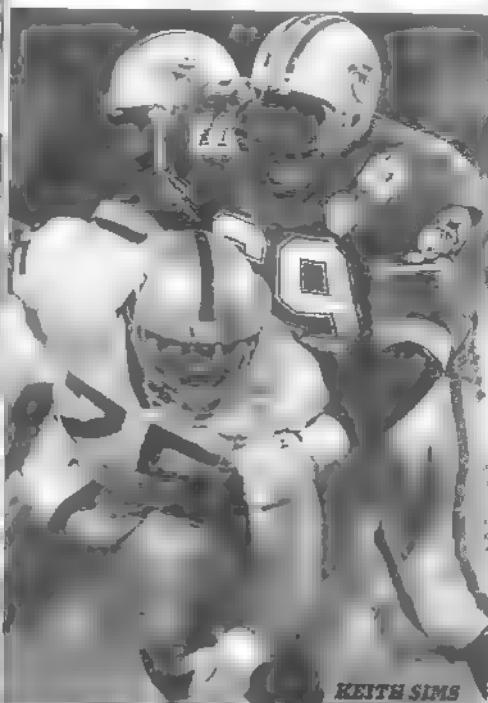
McDuffie has the punt-return duty. Punter Reggie Roby returns and place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich, who made 30 of 37 field goals and led the NFL in scoring, is outstanding.

1986 DRAFT PICKS

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
32	Alexander, Bruce	CB	5-8	178	27	Stephen F. Austin
86	Banks, Fred	WR	5-10	185	31	Liberty
84	Baty, Greg	TE	6-6	240	29	Stanford
38	Beil, Kenneth	FB	5-11	230	24	Illinois
	Benson, Mitchell	DT	6-4	300	26	TCU
66	Blake, Eddie	T	6-3	315	25	Auburn
53	Bozcar, Ned	LB	6-2	240	26	Notre Dame
36	Briggs, Stephen	CB	5-9	177	28	Texas
	Brother, Kevin	C	6-1	285	24	Vanderbilt
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	190	26	Maryland
	Brown, Reggie	WR	5-11	174	25	Mesa
43	Carswell, Chock	CB	5-9	192	24	Georgia
83	Clayton, Mark	WR	5-9	181	32	Louisville
80	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	263	24	Georgia Tech
52	Collins, Roosevelt	LB	6-4	235	25	TCU
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	241	25	Western Illinois
34	Cramer, Aaron	RB	6-0	216	25	Fresno State
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	271	27	Missouri
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	OL	6-5	296	30	Wisconsin
74	Dennis, Mark	T	6-6	292	28	Illinois
85	Duper, Mark	WR	5-9	192	34	NW Louisiana
	Ford, Bernard	WR	5-9	183	27	Central Florida
	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	31	Nebraska
35	Glen, Kerry	CB	5-9	177	31	Minnesota
42	Green, Chris	DB	5-11	189	26	Illinois
92	Griggs, David	DE	6-3	250	26	Virginia
59	Grimsley, John	LB	6-2	236	31	Kentucky
45	Hardin, Bobby	S	6-0	202	26	Miami
	Heiler, Ron	OT	6-6	280	31	Penn State
20	Hickerson, Eric	S	6-2	215	28	Indiana
21	Higgs, Mark	RB	5-7	199	27	Kentucky
29	Holbey, Lifford	S	6-0	207	31	LSU
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB	6-2	245	24	North Carolina
	Hope, Charles	S	6-3	310	23	Central St.
44	Humphrey, Bobby	RB	6-1	201	29	Alabama
97	Hunter, Jeff	DE	6-4	291	27	Albany State
	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-11	188	28	Michigan St.
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	249	28	Oklahoma
24	Jackson, Vester	CB	6-0	186	30	Washington
	Johnson, Alex	WR	5-9	173	25	Miami
99	Kingheil, Chuck	NT	6-1	288	28	N. Michigan
47	Maune, Darrell	CB	5-10	182	26	Jacksonville St.
13	Manno, Dan	QB	6-4	224	32	Pittsburgh
80	Marlin, Tony	WR	6-0	177	28	Mesa
82	Miller, Scott	WR	5-11	179	25	UCLA
19	Michien, Scott	QB	6-6	230	25	Jah
93	Odum, Cliff	LB	6-2	235	35	Texas Arlington
56	Offerdahl, John	LB	6-3	238	29	W. Michigan
25	Oliver, Louis	S	6-2	224	27	Florida
49	Paige, Tony	FB	5-10	235	31	Virginia Tech
30	Paramakee, Bernie	RB	5-11	201	26	Bail State
14	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	209	25	NE Louisiana
	Rasul, Amir	RB	6-0	198	24	Florida A&M
	Robbins, Kevin	T	6-6	300	27	Michigan St.
4	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	243	32	Iowa
68	Rose, Blaine	G	6-5	285	27	Maryland
	Rower, Tony	C	6-4	290	24	Florida
58	Sander, Mark	LB	6-2	232	25	Louisville
22	Saxon, James	FB	5-11	237	27	San Jose State
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-3	310	26	Iowa State
	Smith, Cedric	FB	5-10	223	25	Florida
28	Smith, Frankie	CB	5-9	177	25	Baylor
10	Stoyanovich, Pete	K	5-10	181	26	Indiana
95	Turner, T.J.	NT	6-4	280	30	Houston
63	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6-3	284	27	Ohio State
	Vessey, Craig	NT	6-2	300	27	Houston
23	Vincent, Troy	CB	6-0	192	23	Wisconsin
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	298	26	Texas A&M
79	Webster, Larry	DT	6-5	285	24	Maryland
60	Wadner, Bert	OL	6-2	290	27	Kent State
61	Williams, Gene	G	6-3	308	25	Iowa State
26	Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	200	28	Florida
87	Williams, Mike	WR	5-10	183	27	Northeastern

DRAFT PICKS

rd	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	McDuffie, O.J.	WR	5-10	191	Penn. State
3	Kirby, Terry	RB	6-1	222	Virginia
4	Bradford, Ronnie	CB	5-10	188	Colorado
5	Gray, Chris	G	6-4	277	Auburn
6	O'Neal, Robert	DB	6-1	193	Clemson
7	Meritt, David	LB	6-2	235	N. C. State
8	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6-2	230	New Hampshire



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NEW YORK JETS

Let the hype begin. Actually it began on draft day. After New York selected Marvin Jones, Florida State's outstanding inside linebacker, ESPN commentator Joe Theismann declared that the Jets, winners of four games a year ago, would be in the next AFC championship game. Nevertheless, the excitement in New York is understandable. The Jets are unquestionably improved. They were one of the most aggressive teams in the free-agent market and they made an interesting trade. The general feeling among NFL skeptics, however, is that owner Leon Hess may have overpaid for some past reputations.

The Jets' brass thinks otherwise. They felt that their young team needed some veterans to show them how to win. Two of their top free agents, future Hall of Fame safety Ronnie Lott and defensive tackle Leonard Marshall, own six Super Bowl rings between them. Even in the winter of his playing days, Lott has performed effectively against the Buffalo Bills, the team New York must climb over to win the AFC East title.

The Jets' most controversial move was trading with Cincinnati for veteran quarterback Boomer Esiason, who will be installed as the

JETS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Blanchard, 65 points on 17 extra points and 16 field goals. 13th
RUSHING—Baxter, 698 yards on 152 carries, 4.6 avg. 6 TDs. 9th
PASSING—Nagle, 192 of 387 attempts for 2,280 yards and 7 TDs. 12th
RECEIVING—Burkett, 57 receptions for 724 yards, 12.7 avg. 1 TD. 19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Brim, 6 for 139 yards, 23.2 avg. 1 TD. 13rd
PUNTING—Aguar, 73 punts, 41.0 avg., longest 65 yards. 12th
PUNT RETURNS—Carpenter, 28 for 208 yards, 7.4 avg. 10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McMillan, 22 for 420 yards, 19.1 avg. 7th
SACKS—Washington, 8.5 sacks. 110th

August
 7 At Pittsburgh (N)
 13 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 21 At N.Y. Giants (N)
 27 At Washington (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

September	5	DENVER	16-27
	12	At Miami	17-19
	19	OPEN DATE	
	26	NEW ENGLAND (N)	30-21
October	3	PHILADELPHIA	
	10	At L.A. Raiders	
	17	OPEN DATE	
	24	At Buffalo	20-24
	31	At N.Y. Giants	
November	7	At Miami	26-4
	14	At Indianapolis	3-6 (OT)
	21	CINCINNATI	17-14
	28	At New England	3-24
December	5	INDIANAPOLIS	6-10
	11	At Washington	
	18	DALLAS	
	26	At Buffalo	24-17
January	2	At Houston	

1992 SCORES

BROWNING NAGLE

new starter, putting the development of young Browning Nagle in reverse. Ironically, when the Jets broke their long losing streak to Buffalo late last season, Nagle was the quarterback. Esiason played for Jets coach Bruce Coslet during his salad days with the Bengals when Coslet was the offensive coordinator. The catch is that Esiason has not had a good season since 1989. Maybe playing near his Long Island roots will help his comeback. At this stage of his career, Esiason is unlikely to throw downfield very often. So look for Johnny Mitchell, the second-year tight end, and free agent James Thornton from the Bears to become prime targets. Rob Moore, who averaged 14.5 yards on his 50 catches, is still the top receiver. The Jets haven't replaced the prematurely retired Al Toon, but the dependable Chris Burkett led the team with 57 catches and will do the grubby things that lead to victory.

To be effective, Esiason has to be used in a play-action offense, where his skilled decep-

tion is a valuable weapon. But to use play-action, a team needs to sell the defense on the idea that its running backs will hurt them if they don't pay strict attention. Defenses haven't been buying what Blair Thomas has been selling for several years. The Jets virtually conceded that the man they made the No. 2 pick in the 1990 draft has been a flop. They were frantic in the free-agent market, first signing Seattle's Chris Warren and then Cincinnati's Derrick Fenner to offer sheets that later were matched by their present teams. What finally put a new running back on the roster was draft-day subterfuge. General manager Dick Steinberg sent up a smoke screen, convincing Phoenix that the Jets intended to draft Georgia running back Garrison Hearst, not Jones. The Cardinals, who coveted Hearst, traded places with the Jets, including running back Johnny Johnson, once a Pro Bowler, in the deal. New York thus ended up with the man they really wanted, Jones, as well as a ball carrier who could be effective if he's in the mood. Johnson can catch the ball, too, and Esason likes to throw to his backs (see James Brooks with the Bengals).

The offensive line finished the season with Stupeli Malamala at left tackle for the injured Jeff Criswell. Steinberg tried to improve on them in the market, but couldn't. As it stands, this is an undistinguished line. Dave Cadigan is the right tackle with the underrated Dwayne White at right guard, Roger Duffy at left guard and veteran Jim Sweeney at center. Tackle David Ware, who needs development, came in the fourth round of the draft. What the Jets couldn't afford to do was lose tackle Irv Eatman to the Rams.

The defensive line is improved three ways by free agency, the draft, and the rehabilitation room. Marshall was signed from the Giants to take the place of Dennis Byrd, whose career ended in a late-season collision on the field. The Jets used their second draft choice to add Georgia Tech's overachieving end, Coleman Rudolph. Jeff Lageman, the team's best pass rusher, returns to right end after missing 14 games with a knee injury. Marvin Washington led the team with 8½ sacks in Lageman's place, but the coaches aren't satisfied with him. Scott Mersereau, the left tackle, could be pushed by Mario Johnson. The versatile Paul Frase contributed five sacks.

Jones has to beat out 10-year veteran Kyle Clifton, but anyone who has been called the next Mike Singletary should be able to pull that off. The Jets already have a linebacking stud in Mo Lewis on the right side. He led the team the team with 145 tackles, including 105 initial hits. If Kurt Barber is to make his move, it will have to be now on incumbent left outside linebacker Bobby Houston, who disappears from the game at times.

Lott will provide more than leadership in the secondary. The Jets aren't sure they are going to get free safety Lonnie Young back from

the injury list. The strong safety is Brian Washington, whose interception return for a touchdown gave the Jets their first victory over Buffalo in the last six games. The signing of Eric Thomas from the Bengals upgrades the left corner. James Hasty can cover and play run support on the right side.

Craig Hentrich of Notre Dame was drafted to challenge punter Louie Aguiar and possibly handle the kickoffs. Clifford Hicks was signed from Buffalo to return punts.

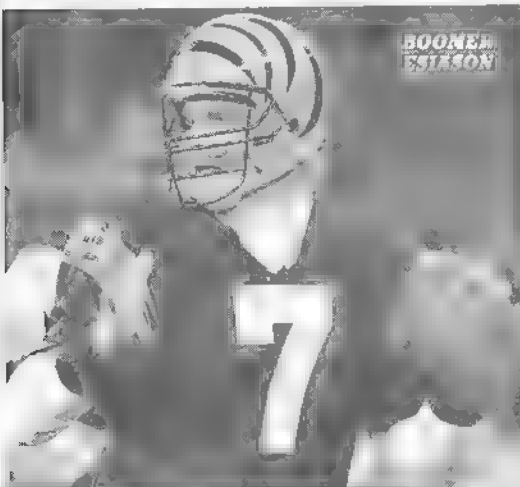
ATLANTIC

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
4	Aguar, Louie	P	6-2	215	27	Utah State
16	Bailey, Mario	WR	5-9	162	23	Washington
98	Barber, Kurt	LB	6-4	241	24	Southern Cal
30	Baxter, Brad	RB	6-1	235	26	Alabama State
9	Blaize, Jeff	DE	6-0	202	23	East Carolina
10	Blanchard, Cary	K	6-1	225	26	Oklahoma State
18	Boles, Eric	WR	6-3	205	23	Central Wash.
80	Boyer, Mark	TE	6-4	242	31	Southern Cal
43	Brim, Mike	CB	6-0	198	27	Virginia Union
76	Brown, James	T	6-6	326	23	Virginia State
87	Burton, Chris	WR	6-4	200	23	Tackson State
66	Cadigan, Dave	C	6-4	255	28	Southwestern
50	Cadger, Glenn	LB	6-3	235	23	Houston
82	Carpenter, Rob	WR	6-2	190	25	Syracuse
28	Chaffey, Pat	RB	6-1	220	26	Oregon State
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	31	Cu
99	Cotterman, Ken	LB	6-1	255	25	Massachusetts State
69	Criswell, Jeff	T	6-7	29	29	Graceland, LA
89	Dawkins, Dale	WR	6-1	190	27	Miami
52	Dixon, Cal	C	6-4	284	24	Florida
62	Duffy, Roger	G	6-3	285	26	Penn State
7	Esason, Boomer	QB	6-5	220	32	Arkansas
9	Frase, Paul	DL	6-5	170	26	Syracuse
35	Graham, Scottie	RB	5-9	220	24	Ohio State
96	Gunn, Mark	DL	6-5	285	25	Pittsburgh
40	Hasty, James	CB	6-0	20	27	Washington State
34	Hedlin, Johnny	RB	5-7	174	33	Texas A&M
	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	88	29	Oregon
65	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-2	235	26	Nu. State
	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-3	240	25	San Jose St.
78	Johnson, Mario	DT	6-3	292	23	Missou.
51	Jones, Don	LB	6-0	231	24	Washington
22	Kors, R.	S	6-0	195	27	Long Beach State
56	Lageman, Jeff	DE	6-5	286	26	Virginia
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	290	24	Georgia
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-	203	34	Southern Cal
75	Malamala, Stupeli	T	6-5	313	24	Washington
70	Marshall, Leonard	DT	6-4	285	32	LSU
81	Mathis, Terence	WR	5-10	170	25	New Mexico
74	McCullough, Russ	G-T	5-10	320	25	Massachusetts
94	Mersereau, Scott	DT	6-7	275	28	So. Connecticut
72	Miller, Brett	T	6-7	266	35	Iowa
83	Mitchell, Johnny	DE	6-3	263	22	Nebraska
86	Moore, Rob	WR	6-3	205	25	Syracuse
8	Nagle, Browning	QB	6-1	224	25	Louisville
3	Peters, Pat	WR	6-1	200	25	Cal-S. Northridge
7	Pickett, Bill	DT	6-5	265	34	Rutgers
27	Porter, Kevin	S	5-10	214	27	Auburn
20	Pride, Dennis	CB	6-1	182	28	UCLA
37	Prior, Anthony	DB	5-11	185	23	Washington St.
19	Richardson, Paul	WR	6-3	200	24	JCUA
49	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	250	28	Georgia
53	Sweeney, Jim	OL	6-4	286	31	Pittsburgh
32	Thomas, Blair	RB	5-10	202	26	Penn State
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	181	29	Tulane
84	Thomson, James	TE	6-2	242	28	Cal-St. Fullerton
23	Turner, Marcus	DB	6-0	165	27	JCUA
48	Washington, Brian	S	6-1	218	28	Nebraska
97	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	272	28	Idaho
86	Whisenand, Ken	TE	6-3	240	31	Georgia Tech
67	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	305	25	Alcorn State
77	Willig, Matt	T-DT	6-8	290	24	Southern Cal
92	Wilson, Karl	DL	6-5	265	29	LSU
31	Young, Lonnie	DB	6-1	196	30	Michigan State

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-1	237	Florida State
2	Rudolph, Coleman	DE	6-4	265	Georgia Tech
4	Ware, David	OT	6-6	269	Virginia
5	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	250	Auburn
5	Murrell, Adrian	RB	5-11	205	West Virginia
5	Shedd, Kenny	WR	5-9	175	Northern Iowa
6	Anderson, Richie	RB	6-2	215	Penn State
7	Mitten, Alec	OT	6-7	285	Georgia
8	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-0	200	Notre Dame



AFC East

JEFF GEORGE

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

The Colts like to do things in pairs. Last year, they had the first two picks in the college draft and selected two defensive fire eaters, end Steve Emtman and linebacker Quentin Coryatt. This year, when free agency kicked in, they went out and bought themselves the nucleus of a respectable offensive line, spending \$14.5 to get the signatures of Buffalo's Will Wolford and Minnesota's Kirk Lowdermilk on their contracts. "It's amazing to think how far this organization has come in 14 months," said coach Ted Marchibroda. "You stop and think of the two linemen and you add them to last year's draft, it's incredible."

The Colts were incredible enough last year, when they were much more flawed. They won their last five games to finish 9-7, a feat that ranks only behind the last-to-first finish Marchibroda brought about in the '70s in his first hitch as the team's coach. Their victory total

included upsets over Buffalo and Miami, their foremost rivals in the division. In fact, the Colts were 5-3 in the AFC East, as were the Dolphins and the Bills. Their road record (5-3) was better than their home record (4-4) and their takeaway/giveaway ratio was a mere minus-two. Since the Colts were a young team rebounding from a 1-15 season, those statistics are a tribute to Marchibroda and his staff. There was a bit of sorcery involved. The Colts violated the classic football edict: "Run strong and stop the run." They finished last in the AFC in both categories.

Building a line was essential for the preservation of Jeff George, the Colts' young quarterback, whose development has not been as rapid as expected. Marchibroda thinks the team's future is bracketed with the maturation of his quarterback. But George needs bodyguards. He was injured twice last year. The first time, it was a stretched thumb ligament in

COLTS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Busciti, 72 points on 24 extra points and 16 field goals. 11th
RUSHING—Johnson, 592 yards on 178 carries, 3.3 average. 13th
PASSING—George, 167 of 306 attempts for 1,963 yards and 7 touchdowns. 13th
RECEIVING—Langhorne, 65 receptions for 811 yards, 12.5 avg., 17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Prior, 6 for 44 yards, 7.3 average. 13rd
PUNTING—Stark, 83 punts, 44.8 avg., longest 64 yards. 2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Verdin, 24 for 268 yards, 11.2 avg., 2 TDs. 2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Verdin, 39 for 815 yards, 20.9 average. 4th
SACKS—Banks, 9.0 sacks. 19th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 At Seattle (N)
 14 CINCINNATI (N)
 20 L.A. RAIDERS (N)
 27 At Green Bay (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

September 5 MIAMI
 12 At Cincinnati
 19 INDIANAPOLIS
 26 At NEW ENGLAND
 October 3 At Denver
 10 DALLAS
 17 OPEN DATE
 24 At Miami (N)
 31 NEW ENGLAND
 November 7 At Washington (N)
 14 N.Y. JETS
 21 At Buffalo
 29 SAN DIEGO (N)
 December 5 At N.Y. Jets
 12 At N.Y. Giants
 19 PHILADELPHIA (N)
 26 At New England
 1992 2 At Buffalo

1992 SCORES

0-28
 21-7
 -
 14-3
 -
 31-20
 34-37 (OT)
 6-3 (OT)
 0-38
 14-34
 10-6
 6-0
 16-3 (OT)

his passing hand, the second time, a broken bone in the same hand. The opposition is allowed to get too close to him. He has been sacked 120 times in his first 38 starts. His touchdown pass to interception ratio was an unimpressive 7 to 15 in 1992, but as the starter he produced a 6-4 record. Jack Trudeau is a solid backup, but he hasn't been protected much better than George.

The Colts' running backs averaged just 2.9 yards per carry last season. Hence the second reason for the need to improve the offensive line. The downside of signing Wolford, one of the premier left tackles in the game, is that he came from Buffalo with a torn left rotator cuff. He underwent surgery immediately after the Colts won title to him. The optimists

included receiver, in the first round. The scouting reports weren't glowing concerning Dawkins' speed, but few Pac-10 defensive backs ran him down. There was a receiver shakeup in Indy last year and ex-Brown Reggie Langhorne wound up leading the team with 65 catches. Jessie Hester had 52 receptions and averaged 15.2 yards per catch, but each starter caught just one touchdown pass. Kerry Cash became the first Colt tight end in 20 years to catch more than 40 passes. His 43 included three for touchdowns. He gets help from Charles Arbuckle, a football gypsy who finally settled down in Indianapolis.

The defense held the opposition to 14 points or less in seven games, despite playing without Emtman and Coryatt for the last half of the season. All seven games were victories. The defense is coached by Rick Venturi, who was the temporary head coach for most of the previous season. Emtman will be back at left end, with tough Tony Siragusa at nose tackle. Right end is a jumble among Skip McClenon, Willis Peguese, and veterans Sam Clancy and Jon Hand. The secondary is more of a jumble. The departure of free safety Mike

Prior allows rookies Ray Buchanan of Louisville and Derwin Gray of Brigham Young to compete with Jason Beiser for the job. Ashley Ambrose, who was hampered by his rookie holdout and not much help in 1992, should contend at cornerback against Eugene Daniel. Chris Goode, and Tony Stargell. John Baylor is the strong safety.

The strength of the defense is the linebacking. Coryatt will return inside, next to Jeff Herrod, who led the team in tackles for the fourth season in a row. On the outside, Chip Banks had nine sacks, his most in eight years. Duane Bickett, the durable veteran on the opposite side, had 6½ sacks. Scott Radecki made 89 tackles when he replaced Coryatt following the rookie's injury.

Clarence Verdin remains among the best return men and Rohn Stark is a premier punter, but Marchibroda would like to improve upon place-kicker Dean Biasucci.



think he'll be ready on opening day or shortly after. The pessimists think it will be well into the season before he gets into the lineup. Lowdermilk, the erstwhile Minnesota center, fills a gaping hole. Beyond the two newcomers, there isn't much. Left guard Randy Dixon should benefit from playing alongside Wolford, but so far he is at the journeyman level. Right tackle Kevin Carl is in a similar category. Right guard Bill Schultz has been hurt often, but he started the final two games a year ago.

The running attack could get a major boost from rookie Roosevelt Potts of Northeast Louisiana, who has speed even when his weight gets up to 250 pounds. The Colts want him to play lighter. He did it all in college: trample tacklers, catch the ball, and block. The expectation is that Potts will be their feature back. Ex-Notre Damer Anthony Johnson and Rodney Culver will fight for the other spot in the two-back set. Johnson had 1,116 all-purpose yards and Culver closed his rookie season with a 92-yard day against Cincinnati. He also scored nine touchdowns, seven rushing.

It will help George that the Colts drafted Sean Dawkins of California, a big, sure-hand-

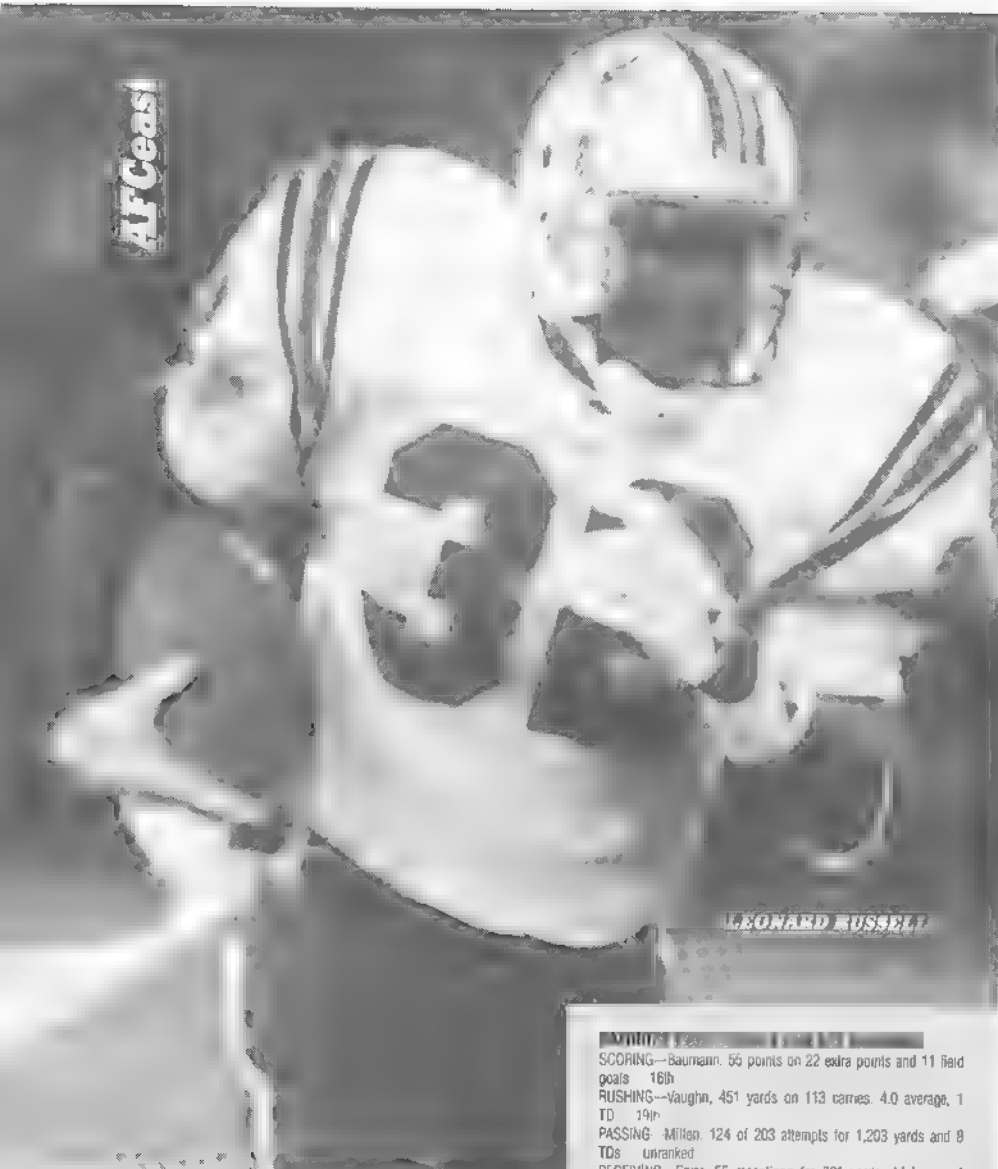


COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
33	Ambrose, Ashley	DB	5-10	177	23	Moss, Valley St.
81	Arbuckle, Charles	TE	6-3	248	25	UCLA
31	Bail, Michael	DB	6-0	220	29	Southern U.
51	Banks, Chip	LB	6-4	254	34	Southern Cal
36	Baylor, John	DB	6-0	208	28	Southern Miss
29	Beiser, Jason	DB	5-9	187	23	Oklahoma
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	31	Western Carolina
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	251	31	Southern Cal
71	Carl, Kevin	DT	6-7	308	32	Colorado State
44	Carlton, Maurice	RB	6-1	240	32	Arkansas State
88	Cash, Kerry	TE	6-4	252	24	Texas
76	Clancy, Sam	DE	6-7	300	35	Pittsburgh
32	Clark, Ken	RB	5-9	204	27	Nebraska
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6-3	250	23	Texas A&M
35	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	24	Notre Dame
38	Daniel, Eugene	DB	5-11	186	32	LSU
68	Dixon, Randy	OG	6-3	305	28	Pittsburgh
90	Emtman, Steve	DE	6-4	290	23	Washington
11	George, Jeff	DB	6-4	227	26	Illinois
37	Goode, Chris	DB	6-0	199	30	Alabama
59	Grant, Stephen	LB	6-0	231	24	West Virginia
78	Hand, Jon	DE	6-7	301	30	Alabama
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	249	27	Mississippi
84	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	175	30	Florida State
23	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	222	26	Notre Dame
85	Langhorne, Reggie	WR	6-2	207	30	Elizabeth City St.
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-4	275	30	Ohio State
64	Matich, Trevor	OL	6-4	297	32	BYU
75	Matus, Ron	OT	6-6	299	30	Virginia
95	McClenon, Skip	DL	6-7	302	29	Arizona State
94	McClay, Tony	NT	6-0	279	24	Florida
86	Miller, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	24	South Carolina
73	Moss, Zefross	OT	6-6	338	27	Alabama State
96	Peguese, Willis	DE	6-4	273	27	Miami
97	Radecki, Scott	LB	6-3	240	31	Penn State
74	Schultz, William	OT	6-5	305	26	Southern Cal
98	Siragusa, Tony	NT	6-3	303	26	Pittsburgh
66	Spill, Ron	OG	6-3	280	31	Maryland
45	Stargell, Tony	DB	5-11	189	27	Tennessee State
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	34	Florida State
79	Staysniak, Joe	OT	6-4	296	37	Ohio State
28	Toner, Ed	RB	6-0	240	25	Boston College
10	Trudeau, Jack	DB	6-3	227	31	Illinois
7	Tupa, Tom	DB	6-4	230	27	Ohio State
58	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	258	26	Michigan State
72	Vander Poot, Mark	OT	6-7	303	25	Colorado
83	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	182	30	SW Louisiana
92	Walker, Tony	LB	6-3	246	25	SE Missouri St.
	Wolford, Will	OT	6-5	287	29	Vanderbilt

DRAFTIES

rd	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6-4	213	California
2	Potts, Roosevelt	RB	6-1	258	NE Louisiana
3	Buchanan, Ray	DB	5-9	193	Louisville
4	Gray, Derwin	DB	6-0	190	BYU
4	McDonald, Devon	LB	6-3	240	Notre Dame
6	Etheredge, Carlos	TE	6-5	236	Miami
7	Lewis, Lance	RB	5-11	225	Nebraska
8	Thomas, Marquise	LB	6-4	255	Mississippi



AFC East

LEONARD ROSS III

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The Patriots' newsletter, mailed to the team's fans, didn't hold anything back in its post-season issue. "January 21, 1993. Mark it down. For Patriot fans, it will be remembered as the day the favorite team entered the big time."

Maybe they went a little overboard about the hiring of Bill Parcells as the new coach. After all, the Patriots have had a Super Bowl team and a lot of other admirable seasons in "the big time." But Parcells represents someone to lead them out of the swamp after four losing seasons, during which a significant part of their fan base deserted them. Besides, Parcells won two Super Bowls with the Giants, and in New England there is some awe connected with the Giants, who were the regional favorite in the pre-Patriot days. The team sold about 1,500 new season tickets in less than 96 hours after Parcells was hired.

There may have been more excitement about the hiring than there will be about the football in 1993. The Pats will be better immediately, but they'll be better with stone-age football. Parcells knows that winning will be tough enough with this 2-14 team and he isn't about to give anything away.

SCORES
 SCORING—Baumann, 55 points on 22 extra points and 11 field goals. 16th
 RUSHING—Vaughn, 451 yards on 113 carries. 4.0 average. 1 TD. 19th
 PASSING—Millen, 124 of 203 attempts for 1,203 yards and 8 TDs. unranked
 RECEIVING—Fryar, 55 receptions for 791 yards, 14.4 avg., 4 TDs. 10th
 INTERCEPTIONS—Henderson, 3 for 43 yards. 14.3 average. 16th
 PUNTING—McCarthy, 103 punts, 41.0 avg., longest 61 yards. 11th
 PUNT RETURNS—Stanley, 28 for 227 yards, 8.1 average. 8th
 KICKOFF RETURNS—Vaughn, 20 for 564 yards, 28.2 avg., 1 TD. 1st
 SACKS—Tippett, 7.0 sacks. 13th

August 7 At San Diego (N)
 14 Cleveland at Toronto, Canada (N)
 20 GREEN BAY (N)
 27 KANSAS CITY (N)

1993 SCHEDULE		1992 SCORES	
September	5 At Buffalo	10-17	7-16
	12 DETROIT	10-17	10-17
	19 SEATTLE	10-17	6-10
	26 At N.Y. Jets (N)	10-17	21-30
October	3 OPEN DATE		
	10 At Phoenix		
	17 HOUSTON		
	24 At Seattle		
	31 At Indianapolis	37-34	(OT)
November	7 BUFFALO	10-17	7-41
	14 OPEN DATE		
	21 At Miami	17-38	
	28 N.Y. JETS	24-3	
December	5 At Pittsburgh	10-17	
	12 CINCINNATI	10-20	
	19 At Cleveland	17-19	
	26 INDIANAPOLIS	0-6	
January	2 MIAMI	13-16	(OT)

New Eng and got a peek at the future on draft day and his name is Drew Bledsoe, the Washington State quarterback whom Parcells made the No. 1 pick in the entire talent pool. "He won't play until he's ready," Parcells loudly announced. Believe him. Scott Zolak, who had a few bright moments in his rookie season last year, is likely to be the quarterback, at least at the start. The identity of the quarterback won't be important until the Pats get their stuff together under Parcells. He didn't even want a veteran quarterback around as a patrol leader for Bledsoe. Hugh Millen was encouraged to sign with Dallas. Parcells' style, especially at first, will be to try to outsize, out-tough, and overpower the opposition—the "power football" of his Super Bowl teams.

To accomplish that, his first break was finding the bones of a good offensive line. Pat Harlow, Eugene Chung, and Bruce Armstrong were on the New England roster when he got there. Harlow is a proven young tackle. Chung, last year's top draftee, was the starting right tackle for the second half of the season when Harlow had to move to the left side to replace the injured Armstrong. Chung didn't have a satisfactory year, but put an asterisk after it. His father, with whom he was close, died while he was in training camp and the rookie played the season understandably distracted. If Armstrong's knee heals well, Chung probably will be moved to guard. Parcells also took a chance by signing Steve Trippilo, a top guard from New Orleans who hasn't played in more than a year because of injury. Gene Chilton is the center. Todd Rucio, a 296-pound power blocker who rebounded from knee surgery to have a great second half of the season at Penn State, came in the draft.

Raymond Perkins, the ex-Giants and Bucs head coach, is the offensive coordinator. He'll be in charge of polishing Bledsoe, who already has an Elway-class arm, a natural gift of leadership, and whopping size (6-5, 233). It's



STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

just as well he doesn't get to play early since the Pats are shy in the receiver department. The best thing that could happen to them is that Hart Lee Dykes, out all year with his second broken kneecap, is able to return. With Irving Fryar gone, the top wide receivers are Greg McMurtry (35 catches) and Michael Timpson (26). The draft brings Vincent Brisby of Northeast Louisiana, a tackle-breaker who scored 10 touchdowns as a senior. Tight end Marv Cook, who caught 50 passes or more in each of the last three years, should be even more important now.

Leonard Russell suffered from the sophomore jinx after his NFL Rookie of the Year Award in 1991. If he regains his unit enthusiasm, he can be Parcells' kind of back. At 235 pounds, he has both power and speed. Jon Vaughn, who played power football at Michigan, led the Pats with 451 rushing yards and also returned a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown. Scott Lockwood came out of nowhere to gain 127 yards against Miami in the final game of his rookie season. The Pats didn't average 100 yards rushing yards a game last year. That will change.

For a team that lost 14 games, the Patriots didn't play all that poorly defensively, except that they had a measly 20 sacks. The unit was overwhelmed in only three games. Nevertheless, Parcells has most of the veterans on probation. "It gets down to this," said linebacker Andre Tippett: "Those who show they want to play for him will stay." The inside linebacker, with Vincent Brown and Johnny Rembert, is more stable than the outside, with the 34-year-

old Tippett and a combination of David Howard and Chris Singleton. No linebacker was drafted (Chris Slade is an end/outside rusher), but sophomores Dwayne Sabb and Todd Collins are sure to be inspected closely.

The line of left end Ray Agnew, nose tackle Tim Goad, and Brent Williams started as a complete unit in all but three games. That didn't stop Parcells from signing free agents Leon Seals of Philadelphia, Aaron Jones of Pittsburgh, and John Washington, who once played for him with the Giants. Expect to see a number of one-time Giants in the Patriots' new uniforms this season. If No. 2 draftee Slade of Virginia is ready, he'll probably start ahead of Williams. And don't count out another rookie, Kevin Johnson of Texas Southern.

In the secondary, none of the incumbent starters are safe. There are two good young prospects from last year's draft, Rod Smith and Dion Lambert. Smith can play either corner or free safety. Lambert earned his bones as a nickel back and now bids for the job at strong safety. This draft brings two smart hitters, Michigan safety Corwin Brown and Florida cornerback Lawrence Hatch. Brown is a big-game player. Hatch was tested daily in

college by coach Steve Spurrier's sophisticated passing attack. In addition, Parcells signed his ace special-teams commando, Reyna Thompson, from the Giants. He could contend at cornerback.

Vaughn led the NFL in kickoff returns and Troy Brown of Marshall was drafted in the eighth round. Shawn McCarthy is a steady punter but Georgia Tech's clutch kicker, Scott Sisson, was drafted in the fifth round to challenge Charlie Baumann.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
92	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	272	26	N.C. State
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	28	Louisville
8	Bauman, Charlie	K	6-1	203	26	West Virginia
47	Brown, Roger	S	6-0	96	27	Virginia Tech
59	Brown, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	28	Miss. Valley
	Campbell, Dean	OL	6-2	277	26	Pittsburgh
47	Carlson, Jeff	QB	6-3	215	27	Weber State
63	Chilhor, Gene	C	6-3	286	29	Texas
69	Chung, Eugene	T	6-4	295	24	Virginia Tech
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6-4	246	24	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	23	Carson-Newman
85	Conk, Marv	TE	6-4	234	27	Iowa
	Dwyer, Reggie	TE	6-3	285	23	Troy State
88	Dykes, Hart Lee	WR	6-4	218	27	Oklahoma St.
98	Edwards, Tim	DE	6-1	270	25	Delta State
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	31	Nebraska
91	Garrison, Chris	DE	6-6	260	27	SW Louisiana
73	Gast, Sam	RB	5-11	224	24	Penn State
	Gibson, Don	DL	6-3	275	25	Southern Cal.
	Gisler, Mike	OL	6-4	300	24	Houston
72	Joakim, Tim	NT	6-3	280	27	North Carolina
86	Garrison, Steve	C	6-3	219	24	California
41	Gordon, Tim	S	6-0	188	28	Tulsa
77	Haskins, Pat	T	6-6	290	24	Southern Cal.
14	Howkins, Wayne	WR	5-10	182	24	SW Minnesota
36	Henderson, Jerome	CB	5-0	189	24	Clemson
80	Hopkins, Major	DE	6-4	277	27	Tennessee
13	Houston, Tom	QB	6-3	196	26	LSU
	Hopkins, Wade	WR	6-2	195	25	SW Baptists
99	Howard, David	LB	6	230	32	Long Beach St.
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	26	Southern
	Jones, Aaron	DL	6-5	267	27	E. Kentucky
28	Lambert, Dion	DB	6-0	85	24	J.C.A.
5	Lockwood, Eugene	LB	6-2	233	32	Houston
40	Lockwood, Scott	RB	5-10	96	25	Southern Cal.
11	McCarthy, Shawn	P	6-6	227	25	Purdue
58	McGovern, Rob	LB	6-2	234	27	Holy Cross
86	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	207	26	Michigan
7	Milner, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	30	Washington
	Oberdorfer, Lance	OL	6-7	310	22	Kirkwood C.C.
	Perez, Chris	OL	6-6	305	24	Kansas
27	Poole, David	CB	5-9	182	27	Carson-Newman
70	Redding, Reggie	LB	6-4	305	25	Cal St.-Fullerton
52	Rembert, Johnny	LB	6-3	234	32	Clemson
32	Russell, Leonard	RB	6-2	235	24	Arizona State
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	24	New Hampshire
12	Salt, Lee	QB	6	200	30	Temple
	Seals, Leon	DE	6-5	272	29	Jackson State
	Seaton, Scott	QB	6-3	223	29	Virginia
55	Singleton, Chris	LB	6-2	247	26	Arizona
22	Stritt, Rod	CB	5-11	187	23	Notre Dame
68	Stephens, Calvin	G	6-2	285	26	South Carolina
44	Stephens, John	RB	6	215	27	NW Louisiana
	Suber, Eddie	LB	6-3	240	24	Northwestern
	Thompson, Reyna	DB	6-0	193	30	Baylor
83	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	175	26	Penn State
56	Tupitt, Andre	LB	6-3	241	34	Iowa
	Tupito, Steve	OL	6-5	289	29	Boston College
34	Turner, Kevin	RB	6-0	224	34	Alabama
24	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	23	Michigan
	Washington, John	DL	6-4	290	30	Oklahoma St.
96	Williams, Brent	DE	6-4	275	29	Toledo
75	Williams, Larry	G	6-5	294	30	Notre Dame
16	Zulaik, Scott	KR	6-5	222	26	Maryland

DRAFTED

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Bredsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	Washington St.
2	Slade, Chris	DE/LB	6-4	234	Virginia
2	Rucci, Todd	OT	6-5	286	Penn State
3	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6-1	185	NE Louisiana
4	Johnson, Kevin	DT	6-1	309	Texas Southern
4	Brown, Corwin	FS	6-0	195	Michigan
5	Sisson, Scott	K	6-2	97	Georgia Tech
5	Griffith, Richard	TE	6-5	256	Arizona
6	Hatch, Lawrence	DB	6-0	182	Florida
8	Brown, Troy	KR	5-9	184	Marshall

DENVER BRONCOS

The Broncos have been reconstructed to John Elway's specifications. The popular Wade Phillips is the new head coach, replacing Dan Reeves, Elway's sometime antagonist, who went east to coach the New York Giants. A new offense, tailored after the one used by Bill Walsh in San Francisco, has been installed and Jim Fassel, Elway's quarterback coach at Stanford, was hired to run it. Rod Bernstine, the Chargers' freight train of a back, and Robert Delpino, the Rams' skillful third-down receiver, were signed as free agents. The most important changes may have occurred in the offensive line, where Don Maggs comes from Houston and Brian Habib from obscurity to great riches in order to keep Elway in one piece. Elway sat out four straight games late last season, the first time he missed more than one game in nine seasons. The previous January he missed the last part of the 1991 AFC title game, hobbling around on the sidelines while watching a one-point Buffalo victory. The Denver brass decided something had to be done in order to preserve the quarterback's health.

The Broncos are not the same sort of team Denverites are accustomed to seeing. Owner Pat Bowlen reached into Buffalo to hire the Bills' highly regarded pro scout, Bob Ferguson, as his new director of football operations. It was Ferguson's strategy to enter the free-agent market quickly and aggressively. That's how Maggs and Habib became Broncos. Denver used undersized college free agent Russell Freeman at the vital left tackle spot a year ago, but he was overmatched and both he and Elway suffered because of it. That position was targeted as the priority. Maggs was considered a good buy, since he was an underrated player on a team with high-profile linemen. "He played Bruce Smith as tough as any left tackle in the league," said Ferguson.



ROBERT DELPINO



BRONCOS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Treadwell: 88 points on 28 extra points and 20 field goals. 9th.
RUSHING—Green: 648 yards on 161 carries, 4.0 avg., 2 TDs. 10th.
PASSING—Elway: 174 of 316 attempts for 2,242 yards and 10 TDs. 8th.
RECEIVING—Sharpe: 53 receptions for 640 yards, 12.1 avg., 2 TDs.
INTERCEPTIONS—Henderson: 4 for 79 yards, 19.8 avg., 1 TD. 15th.
PUNTING—Haran: 37 punts, 45.4 avg., longest 62 yards. unranked.
PUNT RETURNS—Marshall: 33 for 349 yards, 10.6 average. 3rd.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Montgomery: 21 for 466 yards, 22.2 average. 3rd.
SACKS—Fletcher: 16.0 sacks. 2nd.

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 At Tampa Bay (N)
 16 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
 20 MIAMI (A)

1993 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Aug. 7	At Tampa Bay (N)	27-10
Aug. 16	San Francisco (N)	27-10
Aug. 20	Miami (A)	27-10
Aug. 23	At Kansas City	27-10
Aug. 30	At Houston	27-10
Sept. 6	At Buffalo	27-10
Sept. 13	At Cleveland	27-10
Sept. 20	At Pittsburgh	27-10
Sept. 27	At Cincinnati	27-10
Oct. 4	At Baltimore	27-10
Oct. 11	At New York Jets	27-10
Oct. 18	At New England	27-10
Oct. 25	At Washington	27-10
Nov. 1	At Dallas	27-10
Nov. 8	At Atlanta	27-10
Nov. 15	At New Orleans	27-10
Nov. 22	At Tampa Bay	27-10
Nov. 29	At San Francisco	27-10
Dec. 6	At Los Angeles	27-10
Dec. 13	At Seattle	27-10
Dec. 20	At Denver	27-10

1992 SCORES

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE
Aug. 7	At Tampa Bay (N)	27-10
Aug. 16	San Francisco (N)	27-10
Aug. 20	Miami (A)	27-10
Aug. 23	At Kansas City	27-10
Aug. 30	At Houston	27-10
Sept. 6	At Buffalo	27-10
Sept. 13	At Cleveland	27-10
Sept. 20	At Pittsburgh	27-10
Sept. 27	At Cincinnati	27-10
Oct. 4	At Baltimore	27-10
Oct. 11	At New York Jets	27-10
Oct. 18	At New England	27-10
Oct. 25	At Washington	27-10
Nov. 1	At Dallas	27-10
Nov. 8	At Atlanta	27-10
Nov. 15	At New Orleans	27-10
Nov. 22	At Tampa Bay	27-10
Nov. 29	At San Francisco	27-10
Dec. 6	At Los Angeles	27-10
Dec. 13	At Seattle	27-10
Dec. 20	At Denver	27-10

The Smith test is important to the Broncos, since they signed the big guy to an offer sheet three years ago and missed acquiring him only because Buffalo matched the offer.

Ferguson followed that with the surprising signing of Habib, who was given a contract that made him the highest paid offensive lineman in the NFL at the time. Fergy had been tracking him for a year and decided that his development had gone relatively unnoticed in Minnesota since the Vikings' line was full of stars. Habib will play either right tackle or move to left guard, alongside left tackle Maggs. Either way, Elway's protection should improve, especially with Bernstine occupying defenders as a ball carrier and blocker and Delpino contributing on third down. Freeman has been moved to guard, where the coaches think he may thrive. Jeff Davidson and Doug Widell are the incumbents at guard with Keith Kartz at center.

Nevertheless, don't expect the famous Elway gun to be fired long-range very often this season. The fact is that he has few deep receivers with whom he can collaborate now that Mark Jackson signed with the Giants. Jackson was the only Bronco to catch a pass in all their games and his eight touchdowns were a career high. His loss is damaging. Arthur Marshall, better known as a punt returner, averaged 19 yards on 26 catches as a rookie. Another rookie, Cedric Tillman, averaged 17.6 on his dozen catches. What Denver loyalists are likely to see this year is a shorter passing game, with Bernstein, Delpino, and H-back Shannon Sharpe, the leading receiver (53 catches), the most frequent targets. The mystery man is second-round draft choice Glyn Milburn, who played for Bill Walsh and Dennis Green at Stanford and knows this offense well. Milburn could figure as a wide receiver if he isn't worked in as a third-down back. He caught 141 passes in his last three years as a collegian and averaged just under 14 yards on 75 punt returns.

Defensively, Phillips gave his side of the ball the first draft choice, Dan Williams, the fierce end from Toledo. Williams is bigger than any current Denver defensive lineman and he has the potential to be the best Bronco at his position since Rich Jackson, who last played 20 years ago. At Toledo, Williams

made at least one stop behind the line of scrimmage in 23 consecutive games. He should take over at right end, opposite Shane Dronett, who had 6½ sacks as a rookie last year. Veteran nose tackle Greg Kragen gets involved in most of the action.

The strength of the defense is still the veteran linebacker corps and safeties Steve Atwater and Dennis Smith. Free safety Atwater went to the Pro Bowl for the third straight year after taking part in 152 tackles. Inside linebacker Michael Brooks, who led the team with 167 tackles, including 106 solo, also was voted to the Pro Bowl. Outside linebacker Simon Fletcher was second in the AFC with 16 sacks. His first sack this season will set a Bronco career record. Karl Mecklenburg, the other inside linebacker, was second on the team with 7½ sacks. Outside backer Mike Croe hired a personal trainer and bulked up to 240 pounds. Keith Traylor, the special teams most valuable player, pushes for work somewhere.

In a surprise move, the Broncos drafted Jason Elam, the Hawaii place-kicker/punter, in the third round. They already have an accomplished punter in Mike Horan; they have two place-kickers in David Broadwell, whose 20-for-24 field goal record was his career best, and kickoff specialist Brad Daluiso. If Elam makes it big, he could save two roster spots and maybe even three.

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	217	27	Arkansas
33	Bernstine, Rod	RB	6-3	238	28	Texas A&M
34	Braxton, Tyrone	CB	5-11	185	29	No. Dakota St.
56	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	29	LSU
	Brooks, Michael	S	6-0	189	26	N.C. St.
23	Coleman, Eric	CB	6-0	190	27	Wyoming
5	Croe, Mike	LB	6-3	240	24	Nebraska
5	Daluiso, Brad	K	6-2	207	26	UCLA
62	Davidson, Jeff	RB	6-5	209	26	Ohio State
39	Delpino, Robert	AG	6-0	205	28	Missouri
29	Dumervill, James	CB	6-0	175	27	UNLV
49	Dronett, Shane	DE	6-6	275	22	Texas
	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	33	Stanford
	Eva, Jerry	TE	6-4	250	25	Toledo
73	Fletcher, Simon	LB	6-5	240	31	Houston
64	Freeman, Russell	T	6-7	290	24	Georgia Tech
92	Graham, Ron	NT	6-6	270	24	Iowa
	Grove, Devin	WR	6-0	181	27	Syracuse
75	Harjo, Blair	T	6-7	292	29	Washington
93	Hartman, Ronnie	LB	6-4	230	25	LSU
	Hargrove, Olaf	OL	6-8	305	26	N.C. College
	Harty, Willie	WR	5-11	186	30	Stanford
24	Henderson, Wymon	CB	5-10	186	32	UNLV
2	Horn, Mike	P	5	130	34	Long Beach St.
68	Johnson, Chuck	T	6-5	275	24	Texas
89	Johnson, Reggie	T	6-2	256	25	Florida St.
62	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	185	30	Arizona
55	Kacharski, John	LB	6-3	240	26	Ohio State
72	Kar, Karl	C	6-4	270	30	California
	Kirkman, Dean	G	6-2	290	25	Washington
7	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	265	31	Utah State
21	Lahr, Joe	CB	5-11	181	26	Washington
76	Latham, Ken	T	6-3	290	34	Florida State
20	Lewis, Greg	RB	5-10	214	24	Washington
59	Lukas, Tim	LB	6-3	230	32	California
	Lyons, Anthony	RB	6-3	230	25	Texas Tech
8	Martinez, Timothy	CB	6-4	195	27	UCLA
78	Maggis, Don	T	6-5	290	32	Tulane
96	Marshall, Arthur	WR	5-11	174	24	Georgia
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	235	33	Minnesota
61	Mocks, Bob	C	6-2	279	24	Auburn
52	Mull, Jeff	LB	6-3	238	25	Nebraska
12	Murphy, Shaw	QB	6-2	213	25	Virginia
74	Noonan, Danny	DT	6-4	275	28	Nebraska
42	O'Brien, Michael	DE	5-11	201	24	Oregon
94	Osofsky, Willie	DE	6-4	260	24	Virginia
78	Pondak, Frank	OL	6-5	285	26	Northern Arizona
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB	6-1	215	25	SW Texas St.
16	Robinson, Frank	CB	5-11	174	24	Boise State
85	Rosen, Derek	WR	6-0	179	24	Arkansas
30	Sawyer, Stu	RB	6-3	210	30	Oklahoma
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	25	Savannah St.
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	34	South Carolina
12	Smith, Sammie	RB	6-2	228	26	Florida State
25	Snow, Carlos	RB	5-9	200	25	Ohio State
50	Sullivan, John	LB	6-1	225	24	Alabama
	Taylor, Kinck	WR	5-11	189	29	Washington St.
57	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	204	23	Alcorn State
54	Traylor, Keith	LB	6-2	260	24	Central Oklahoma
9	Trumbull, David	K	6-1	180	26	Clemson
96	Walker, Kenny	DE	6-3	260	26	Nebraska
79	Waller, Dave	OL	6-6	292	28	Boston College
67	Ward, Craig	G	6-4	287	27	Boston College

DRAFTS

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Williams, Dan	DE	6-3	281	Toledo
2	Milburn, Glyn	RB	5-8	177	Stanford
3	Jones, Ronde	FS	6-2	220	North Carolina
4	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	192	Hawaii
4	Robinson, Jeff	DE	6-4	252	Idaho
5	Williams, Kevin	RB	6-0	200	UCLA
6	Bonner, Melvin	WR	6-3	205	Baylor
7	Williams, Clarence	TE	6-2	234	Washington St.
7	Kimbrough, Antonio	WR	6-2	192	Jackson St.
8	Stabien, Brian	WR	6-1	185	Ohio State



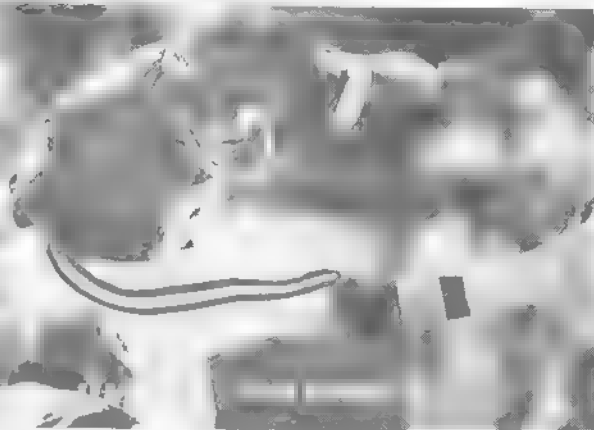
JOE MONTANA

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

The Chiefs' sad tale is told in the playoff history of the '90s. In 1990, they were beaten by one point in Miami, in 1991, they were overwhelmed in Buffalo, in 1992, they were shut out in San Diego. Last April, they made a bold move to write a happy ending to that history, hoping to make their first trip to the Super Bowl since 1969. They dealt their first-round draft choice to the San Francisco 49ers for Joe Montana, arguably one of the two greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time. True, Montana is 37 and the latter part of his career has been pocked by serious injuries. But the final game of the 49ers' season was a virtual audition for Montana and his desire to keep playing. He got an A-plus.

The Chiefs hope that could translate into the Western Division championship and then the AFC title. It's not a pipe dream. Making do with the likes of Steve DeBerg and then Dave Krieg at quarterback, Kansas City is one of just four teams (with Buffalo, San Francisco, and Philadelphia) to win at least 10 games in each of the last three seasons. This is not a team that beats itself. The Chiefs led the NFL with a plus-18 takeaway/giveaway ratio last year, giving them a three-year total of plus-55, also a league best. They have won 17 of their last 21 games in their division. Their nemesis is the road, where they were 3-5 last year. They were upset, 28-7, by the Raiders and then 35-21 by the Giants in their final two road games, which cost them the AFC West title. That was followed by the playoff collapse in San Diego.

Montana, under whose reign the 49ers became the NFL's undisputed kings of the road, should be able to fix that. The problem is that the Chiefs have to find a way to protect him. Krieg, the only quarterback to throw a pass for them last year, was sacked a depressing 48 times. That could be cured if the talent on hand is able to handle the new offensive scheme that features multiple formations and a great deal of motion, sweeps, traps, and deception. This will be coming from a team that, under coach Marty Schottenheimer, had all the finesse and subtlety of a punch in the mouth. Gone now is the one-back, stop-us-if-you-can conservatism. The tight end, a third tackle in the old offense, now becomes an important pass receiver. The idea in the San



Francisco style is for the quarterback to do a skilled job reading coverages and getting the ball to a specific area before the pass rushers get to him. What better quarterback to execute such plans than Montana?

Schottenheimer must find accomplices for his master quarterback. Harvey Williams, the young running back, has to become more of a factor. He had 262 yards rushing and five receptions a year ago. Christian Okoye and Barry Word combined for 1,055 rushing yards, a total Okoye almost managed by himself in 1991. Todd McNair led the Chiefs with 44 receptions. Kid receivers like Willie Davis, Tim Barnett, and J.J. Brien will get a chance to emulate Jerry Rice and John Taylor. Tight ends Keith Cash, Jonathan Hayes, and Mike Dyal, who caught 22 passes among them last year, will make friends with Montana, who has a fondness for throwing to tight ends. The Chiefs didn't draft a wide receiver until the seventh round, when they took Iowa's Danan Hughes who could end up a baseball player.

The line that allowed all those sacks last year could be weaker since tight guard David Lutz to Detroit. Tim Grunhard returns at center

for improvement from their four-man front. The best hope is that Darren Mickel, who joined them during the season, has matured. He can be a force as a pass rusher, but Schottenheimer needs him to stop the run as well. End Neil Smith, who had 14½ sacks, is one of the best two-way linemen in the league. Leonard Griffin is a solid end. Joe Phillips, the ex-Charger, was tough against the run but Dan Saleaumua, once one of the NFL's leading nose tackles, had an off year despite his six sacks. The Chiefs also lost Bill Maas to Green Bay. Standout outside linebacker Derrick Thomas puts pressure on the quarterback,



CHIEFS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery 105 points on 39 extra points and 22 field goals

RUSHING—Word, 607 yards on 163 carries, 3.7 avg., 4 TDs, 12th

PASSING—Krieg, 230 of 413 attempts for 3,115 yards and 15 TDs, 11th

RECEIVING—McNair, 44 receptions for 380 yards, 8.6 avg., 1 TD, 120th

INTERCEPTIONS—Carter, 7 for 65 yards, 9.3 avg., 1 TD, 12nd

PUNTING—Barker, 75 punts, 43.3 avg., longest 65 yards, 4th

PUNT RETURNS—Carter, 38 for 398 yards, 10.5 avg., 2 TDs, 4th

KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 21 for 406 yards, 19.3 avg., 6th

SACKS—Smith, 14.5 sacks, 13rd; Thomas, 14.5 sacks, 13rd

Month	Game	Opponent	Result
August	7	Green Bay at Milwaukee, WI (N)	
	12	Buffalo (N)	
	21	MINNESOTA (N)	
	27	At New England (N)	

Month	Game	Opponent	Result
September	5	At Tampa Bay	
	12	At Houston	20-21
	20	DENVER (N)	42-20
	26	OPEN DATE	
October	3	LA RAIDERS	27-7
	10	CINCINNATI	
	17	At San Diego	24-0
	24	OPEN DATE	
	31	At Miami	
November	8	GREEN BAY (N)	
	14	At LA Raiders	7-28
	21	CHICAGO	
	28	BUFFALO	
December	5	At Seattle	24-14
	12	At Denver	19-20
	19	SAN DIEGO	16-14
	26	At Minnesota (N)	
January	2	SEATTLE	26-7

with John Alt at left tackle and Rich Baidinger being pushed by Joe Valerio on the right side—if he doesn't move to Lutz's spot at right guard. Dave Szott is the left guard. The draft brings guards Will Shields of Nebraska and Lindsay Knapp of Notre Dame.

The Chiefs allowed an average gain of 4.2 yards per rush last season, so they need ma-

but the more 4-3 the Chiefs use, the less he likes it. "You do too much standing around," Thomas complained. That's why he dined with the Detroit Lions. Nevertheless, Thomas had 14½ sacks, and the Chiefs need him to play at capacity. Their team total of 50 sacks tied for second in the AFC.

Since Albert Lewis missed 15 games in the last two seasons due to various injuries, the Chiefs need Dale Carter to improve on his rookie-of-the-year season and nail down a cornerback job. Playing part time, Carter intercepted seven passes and scored three touchdowns on two punt returns and an interception. He seems destined for future Pro Bowls. Charles Mincy, the new free safety, scored three of the eight touchdowns produced by the defense. He also finished second in tackles with 96, including 56 solos. Veteran corner Kevin Ross plays effectively but strong safety Martin Bayless will be pushed by David Whitmore, who started 12 games for the 49ers and was obtained with Montana.

No beef about the special teams. Place-kicker Nick Lowery had another magic year with 22 field goals in 24 attempts. Bryan Barkers' 43.3-yard gross punting average was Kansas City's best since 1984. Carter was a thriller on punt returns and Bennie Thompson had more stops, 27, than any special teamer in the league.

no	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
76	All, John	T	6-8	303	31	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	RB	5-11	221	27	Houston
50	Anderson, Erick	LB	6-1	241	25	Michigan
60	Baib, Mike	C	6-4	275	34	Texas
77	Baidinger, Rich	T	6-4	293	34	Wake Forest
4	Barker, Bryan	P	5-11	187	29	Santa Clara
82	Barnett, Tim	WR	6-1	201	25	Jackson State
30	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	218	31	Bowling Green
88	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	170	28	Oregon
14	Blunden, Matt	DB	6-6	230	24	Virginia
11	Brown, John	WR	6-2	195	25	Houston
34	Carter, Dale	CB	6-1	188	24	Tennessee
69	Cash, Keith	TE	6-4	245	24	Texas
41	Candridge, Gary	S	6-0	213	25	Appalachian St.
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	170	26	Central Arkansas
71	Dohring, Tom	T	6-8	290	25	Michigan
87	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-2	240	27	Texas A&M
67	Earle, John	OL	6-5	284	24	Western Illinois
22	Erwin, Corrie	CB	5-11	183	27	Central Florida
94	Evans, Mike	DL	6-3	289	25	Michigan
26	Flagler, Terrence	RB	6-0	200	29	Clemson
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	300	28	Appalachian St.
98	Griffin, Leonard	DE	6-4	278	31	Grambling
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	299	25	Notre Dame
58	Hackett, Dino	LB	6-3	230	29	Appalachian St.
81	Hargain, Tony	WR	6-0	194	26	Oregon
65	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	248	31	Iowa
43	Highsmith, Alfonso	RB	6-1	235	28	Miami
9	Jackson, Byron	WR	5-7	180	25	San Jose St.
62	Jennings, Jim	OL	6-4	295	24	San Diego St.
80	Jones, Fred	WR	5-9	183	26	Grambling
65	Kauahi, Kane	C	6-3	275	34	Hawaii
91	Kirksey, William	LB	6-2	237	27	Southern Miss
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	202	35	Millon
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	195	33	Grambling
21	Lewis, Tauhan	CB	5-10	175	25	Nebraska
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	205	37	Dartmouth
49	Marlow, Vince	TE	6-3	251	25	Toledo
57	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	246	33	Auburn
51	Matis, Lonnie	LB	6-1	243	25	Tulane
99	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6-3	278	25	Oregon State
48	McNair, Todd	RB	6-1	202	28	Temple
39	McWright, Robert	CB	5-6	170	27	TCU
92	Mickel, Darren	DE	6-4	268	23	Florida
42	Mincy, Charles	S	5-11	197	24	Washington
	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	37	Notre Dame
69	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	275	30	Florida
35	Okoye, Christian	RB	6-1	260	32	Azusa Pacific
40	Pharms, Charles	S	5-11	185	24	Miami
75	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-3	300	30	SMU
54	Ricketts, Tom	G	6-3	305	26	Pittsburgh
82	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-2	241	26	Fresno State
31	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	185	31	Temple
97	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6-0	295	29	Arizona State
66	Siglar, Ricky	OL	6-7	296	27	San Jose State
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	250	26	TCU
95	Sims, Tom	DT	6-2	291	28	Pittsburgh
93	Smith, Leroy	LB	6-2	225	24	Iowa
83	Smith, Michael	WR	5-8	160	23	Kansas State
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	275	27	Nebraska
6	Smith, Tony	WR	6-2	185	24	Notre Dame
59	Snow, Percy	LB	6-2	250	26	Michigan State
53	Stephens, Santo	LB	6-4	232	24	Temple
79	Szot, Dave	G	6-4	290	26	Penn State
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5-10	170	26	San Jose St.
32	Terry, Doug	S	5-11	192	24	Kansas
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	26	Alabama
48	Thompson, Bennie	S	6-0	214	30	Grambling
45	Thompson, Ernie	RB	5-11	230	24	Indiana
73	Valerio, Joe	OL	6-5	293	24	Pennsylvania
72	Villa, Danny	OL	6-5	300	29	Arizona State
13	Viasic, Mark	DB	6-3	211	30	Iowa
	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	217	26	Stephen F. Austin
44	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-2	229	26	LSU
23	Word, Barry	RB	6-2	245	29	Virginia
91	Young, Todd	TE	6-5	269	26	Penn State

no	name	pos	ht	wt	college
3	Shields, Will	G	6-2	299	Nebraska
4	Fields, Jamie	LB	6-0	236	Washington
5	Knapp, Lindsay	G	6-7	275	Notre Dame
6	Turner, Danus	RB	5-11	230	Washington
7	Hughes, Danan	WR	6-1	201	Iowa



JEFF HOSTETLER

THE ARTIST'S MODEL

The expectation had always been that if free agency ever came to the NFL, it was a foregone conclusion that Al Davis would sign up all the premier talent. Every great player who shook free of his contract would end up wearing silver and black and the Raiders would have a period of domination longer than the Ruth-DiMaggio-Marlin New York Yankees.

I haven't even remotely turned out that way. The Raiders are your basic 7-9 team that improved over the offseason, partially and only because of free agency. Davis might have had the will to load up on stars, but he just doesn't have the financial resources. His home field, the Los Angeles Coliseum, has turned out to be a calamity. It is located in the south-central part of the city, where the riots took place, and unless the visiting team is a great attraction or the Raiders themselves are on a special role, big crowds don't materialize.

The part of the Raiders that was in most urgent need of fixing was the offensive unit. In half their games last season, the Raiders scored 14 points or less. They were especially punchless on the road where they won only twice. To fix a quarterback problem that has been nagging them for years, the Raiders signed free agent Jeff Hostetler, who lost his starting job with the Giants. Hostetler is not the prototype big-arm Raider quarterback, but he knows how to win and his fierce competitiveness fits in well with the club's tradition. L.A. should be a better team with him as its leader.

Age and election to the Hall of Fame seem

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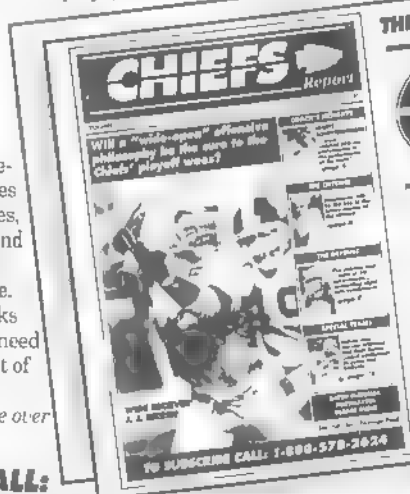
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to have mellowed Davis. Last spring he made a move that, in effect, was an admission that he made a major mistake two years ago. There was a long time when Al didn't admit to mistakes. His move was in drafting Billy Joe Hobert, the controversial University of Washington quarterback, on the second round. The coming of Hobert means that Todd Marinovich, an even more controversial quarterback drafted in the first round in 1991, has a blank-wall future with the Raiders. Hobert, who does have the prototype Raider big arm, is now the team's quarterback of the future. "The Raiders

SCORING—Jaeger, 73 points on 28 extra points and 15 field goals.
RUSHING—Dickerson, 729 yards on 187 carries, 3.9 avg., 2 TDs.
PASSING—Schroeder, 123 of 253 attempts for 1,476 yards and 11 TDs.
RECEIVING—Brown, 49 receptions for 693 yards, 14.1 avg., 7 TDs.
INTERCEPTIONS—McDaniel, 4 for 180 yards, 45.0 average.
PUNTING—Gosssett, 77 punts, 42.3 avg., longest 56 yards.
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 37 for 383 yards, 10.4 average.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Wright, 26 for 442 yards, 17.0 average.
SACKS—Smith, 13.0 sacks.

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July 31 Green Bay at Canton, OH
 August 7 San Francisco at Stanford, CA
 14 At Dallas (N)
 20 At Indianapolis (N)
 28 At L.A. Rams (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

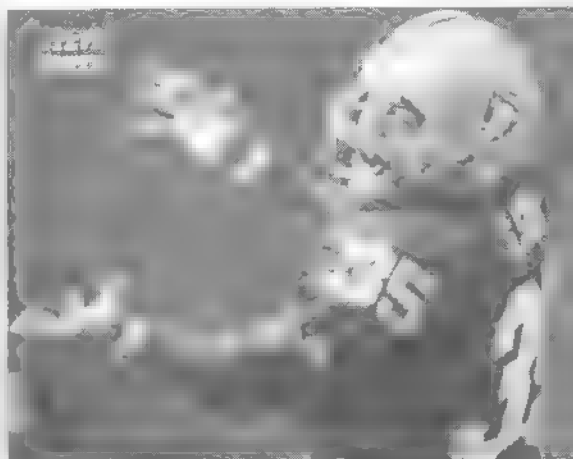
September 5 MINNESOTA
 12 At Seattle (N)
 19 CLEVELAND
 26 OPEN DATE
 October 3 At Kansas City
 10 N.Y. JETS
 18 At Denver (N)
 24 OPEN DATE
 31 SAN DIEGO
 November 7 At Chicago
 14 KANSAS CITY
 21 At San Diego
 28 At Cincinnati
 December 5 At Buffalo
 12 SEATTLE
 19 TAMPA BAY
 26 At Green Bay
 January 2 DENVER

1992 SCORES

19-0
 16-28
 7-27
 13-17
 14-36
 28-7
 3-27
 21-24 (OT)
 20-3
 20-3
 24-0

made a good move," said a rival general manager. "We liked Billy Joe better than Drew Bledsoe or Rick Mirer."

Davis seems to be patiently building for a future day. A large portion of his free-agent money was reserved to bring Rocket Ismail down from the Canadian League. Just as he drafted Bo Jackson in the middle of the draft



after Bo declared for baseball, Davis claimed the NFL rights to the Rocket even after he signed with the Toronto Argonauts. Al knows that things change. Ismail will help immediately as a return whiz, but he needs a great deal of polishing as a receiver. He and Hobert may grow up together.

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One thing is for sure. The Raiders will not rest until they are back at the top of the AFC and with all the moves they've made after the 1992 season, it looks like they're well on their way. Veteran QB Jeff Hostetler gives the Raiders a solid offensive leader who knows how to win and their #1 draft pick Patrick Bates is being billed as the next Ronnie Lott. RAIDERS NEWSPAPER will track the progress of all the 1993 Raiders, rookies as well as veterans, giving you behind-the-scenes coverage that can't be found anywhere else.

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Meanwhile, Hostetler will make do with the offensive talent on hand while the Raiders retool. A priority is the offensive line, where Mike White, usually associated with coaching quarterbacks, will supervise the renovating Bill Meyers, for the last six years offensive coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh is the new line coach. The first big personnel move was signing Gerald Perry, the Rams' efficient left tackle, as a free agent. Two other positions, left guard with three-time Pro Bowler Steve Wisniewski and center with Don Mosebar, are solid. Expect the Raiders to run to the left side a lot. Coach Art Shell would like to see marmoth Greg Skrepenak make a move at right tackle and he has his fingers crossed about 37-year-old Max Montoya at right guard.

The new feature back is Gaston Green, the ex-Bronco, who came in a trade. Eric Dickerson, with 729 yards, was doing it from memory and young Nick Bell never has got beyond the

once-in-a-while stage. After being romanced by several teams, blocking back Steve Smith re-signed with the Raiders. In all, there were just seven touchdown runs in 1992. Tim Brown finally established himself as a big-time receiver, leading the team with 49 catches and seven touchdowns. If Ismail makes rapid progress, he could play opposite his fellow Notre Damer. If he doesn't, then further use will be found for 33-year-old Willie Gault, who has games where he seems to be invisible, and for 37-year-old James Lofton. Tight end Ethan Horton could be revitalized by the coming of Hostetler.

Defensively, the team lost its leader in the secondary, Ronnie Lott, to free agency and the New York Jets, but the Raiders replaced him with the best safety in the draft, Patrick Bates of Texas A&M, who was made in the Raider mold. Cornerback Terry McDaniel, who had four interceptions and blankets receivers, went to the Pro Bowl. The other positions are shaky, with the error-prone Eddie Anderson at free safety and 33-year-old Lionel Washington at the other corner. The draft also brings speedy James Trapp of Clemson.

Jim Haslett, the fiery ex-Bill who was the defensive coordinator of Sacramento's World League champions, was added to the staff to coach the linebackers, the defensive weak

point. Winston Moss, the ex-Buc, played well on the outside but Aaron Wallace struggled in pass coverage on the other side. The big need is at middle linebacker.

Ray Hamilton, a veteran college coach, was hired to work with the defensive line. Howie Long hasn't lost it at left end. He had nine sacks a year ago. Nolan Harrison is a fixture at left tackle, but the Raiders have to get more out of hippo-sized Chester McGlockton at right tackle. Anthony Smith, who had 13 sacks in a specialty role, could beat out Greg Townsend at right end.

The return game could be frightening, with Brown handing punts and Ismail kickoffs. Jeff Gossett is among the league's better punters. Place-kicker Jeff Jaeger slumped early but came out of it later in the season.



RAIDERS DRAFT PICKS									
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college			
32	Allen Marcus	RB	6-2	210	33	Southern Cal			
33	Anderson Eddie	S	6-1	210	30	Fort Valley St			
59	Bell Anthony	LB	6-3	245	29	Michigan State			
38	Bell Nick	RB	6-2	255	25	Iowa			
97	Broughton Willie	DT	6-5	280	29	Alabama			
81	Brown Tim	WR	6-0	95	27	Notre Dame			
56	Bruce Aundray	DE	6-5	260	27	Auburn			
29	Dickerson Eric	RB	6-3	220	33	SMU			
46	Dunn Tom	CB	6-0	190	25	North Carolina			
50	Elison Rick	LB	6-2	225	33	Southern Cal			
1	Evans Vince	QB	6-2	210	28	Southern Cal			
73	FitzPatrick James	C	6-8	325	29	Southern Cal			
49	Freeman Kyle	LB	6-1	225	28	Angelo State			
83	Gault Willie	WR	6-1	175	33	Tennessee			
87	Glover Andrew	TE	6-6	250	26	Grambling			
79	Goltz Bob	DT	6-3	280	36	Notre Dame			
7	Gossett Jeff	P	6-2	195	36	Eastern Illinois			
85	Graddy Sam	WR	5-10	180	29	Tennessee			
22	Green Gaston	RB	5-11	190	27	JCLA			
74	Harrison Nolan	DT	6-5	285	24	Indiana			
80	Hobbs Caryll	WR	6-2	175	25	Pacific			
88	Horton Ethan	TE	6-4	240	31	North Carolina			
20	Hoskins Derrick	S	6-2	200	23	Southern Miss			
15	Hostetler Jeff	QB	6-3	215	32	West Virginia			
18	Jaeger Jeff	K	5-11	195	29	Washington			
58	Jamerson A.J.	LB	6-3	235	25	Norfolk State			
26	Johnson Dennis	CB	6-1	200	26	Winston-Salem			
82	Jones David	TE	6-3	225	25	Delaware State			
52	Jones Mike	LB	6-1	230	24	Missouri			
97	Kelly Joe	LB	6-2	235	29	Washington			
25	Land Dan	CB	6-0	95	28	Albany State			
75	Long Howie	DE	6-5	275	33	Villanova			
12	Maunovich Todd	QB	6-4	210	24	Southern Cal			
41	McCallin Napoleon	RB	6-2	230	30	Naval Academy			
36	McDaniel Terry	CB	5-10	180	28	Tennessee			
77	McElroy Reggie	TE	6-6	290	33	West Texas St			
9	McGlockton Chester	DT	6-4	320	24	Clemson			
17	Montgomery Tyrone	RB	6-0	185	23	Mississippi			
65	Montoya Max	G	6-5	295	37	JCLA			
72	Mosebar Don	C	6-6	305	28	Southern Cal			
98	Moss Winston	LB	6-1	240	28	Miami			
43	Patterson Elvis	S	5-11	195	33	Kansas			
64	Pearl Todd	G	6-2	305	29	Northern Illinois			
71	Perry Gerald	T	6-6	305	29	Southern			
62	Rolf Tom	G	6-5	285	25	Southern Illinois			
78	Skrepenak Greg	T	6-6	315	23	Michigan			
94	Smith Anthony	DE	6-3	270	26	Arizona			
39	Smith Kevin	TE	6-4	255	24	JCLA			
35	Smith Steve	RB	6-1	240	29	Penn State			
55	Stephens Rich	G	6-7	310	28	Tulsa			
93	Townsend Greg	DE	6-3	275	32	TCU			
87	Turk Dan	C	6-4	300	31	Wisconsin			
51	Wallace Aaron	LB	6-3	235	26	Texas A&M			
48	Washington Lionel	CB	6-0	185	33	Tulane			
98	Watts Walter	DT	6-6	320	25	Utah			
68	Wilkinson Bruce	T	6-5	295	29	Tennessee			
76	Wisniewski Steve	G	6-4	290	26	Penn State			
89	Wright Alexander	WR	6-0	195	26	Auburn			
68	Wright Steve	T	6-6	285	34	Northern Iowa			

DRAFT PEEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bates Patrick	SS	6-3	224	Texas A&M
3	Hobert Billy Joe	QB	6-3	234	Washington
3	Trapp James	DB	6-0	178	Clemson
5	Truitt Orlando	WR	6-0	191	Mississippi St.
7	Brekert Greg	LB	6-3	229	Colorado
8	Robinson Greg	RB	5-11	210	NE Louisiana



CHARGERS YEAR-END REVIEW

SCORING—Carney, 113 points on 35 extra points and 26 field goals. 4th
RUSHING—Butts, 609 yards on 218 carries, 3.7 avg., 4 TDs. 7th
PASSING—Humphries, 263 of 454 attempts for 3,356 yards and 16 TDs. 7th
RECEIVING—Harmon, 79 receptions for 914 yards, 11.6 avg., 1 TD. 3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Carrington, 6 for 152 yards, 25.3 avg., 1 TD. 13rd
PUNTING—Kidd, 68 punts, 42.6 average, longest 65 yards. 6th
PLANT RETURNS—Biemmy, 30 for 229 yards, 7.6 average. 9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 19 for 402 yards, 21.2 average. Unranked
SACKS—O'Neal, 17.0 sacks. 1st

August	7	NEW ENGLAND (N)
	14	At L.A. Rams (N)
	21	PHOENIX (N)
	28	At San Francisco (N)

		1992 SCORES	
September	5	SEATTLE	17-6
	12	At Denver	13-21
	19	HOUSTON	0-27
	26	OPEN DATE	—
October	3	At Seattle	31-14
	10	At Pittsburgh	6-23
	17	KANSAS CITY	10-24
	24	OPEN DATE	—
	31	At L.A. Raiders	36-14
November	7	At Minnesota	—
	14	CHICAGO (N)	—
	21	LA RAIDERS	27-3
	29	At Indianapolis (N)	34-14
December	5	DENVER	24-21
	12	GREEN BAY (N)	—
	19	At Kansas City	14-16
	27	MIAMI (N)	—
January	2	At Tampa Bay	29-14

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

How do you explain the Chargers? Ever since their 31-0 loss to Miami in the playoffs last season, they have not conducted business like champions of the AFC West. They lost five starters in the free-agent market. Gone is the right side of the offensive line guard David Richards and tackle Broderick Thompson. Gone is Rod Bernstein, their foremost power back. Gone is Henry Roiling, a linebacker who stayed in the game to cover the opposing tight ends on passing downs. Gone is right corner Tony Blaylock. The Chargers' own free-agent signings were sparse, mostly designed to repair a couple of free-agent vacancies, not to make a serious run at the Super Bowl.

Then I listen to Bobby Beathard, the usually aggressive general manager. "Each team has its own strategy, but I haven't been able to find out what that strategy is when they spend as much as they have. Next year, reality sets in. It's going to be tough on a lot of players and agents. There are going to be some tough

decisions. I can't imagine that there aren't some players who are pricing themselves right out of the game."

That's Beathard, the financially responsible executive keeping an eye on the 1994 salary cap. At one time, he was Beathard the Hawk, the free-wheeling Washington GM who signed Wilber Marshall, the Bears' star outside linebacker, as a free agent before there was a free-agent policy. It's also strange to hear Beathard speaking of "next year." The Chargers won 11 of their last 12 games, including the final seven, to take the division title. They followed that with a 17-0 rout of Kansas City in the opening playoff game. Visions of Super Bowl XXVIII danced in their heads even after they were eliminated.

The suspicion is that the Charger brass took a more realistic look at what the team had accomplished and felt that 1992 was a case of too much, too soon. Of the 11 regular-season victories, only two were scored over teams with winning records. Both were against Indianapolis, another overachiever. Four of the five losses were to playoff teams. The playoff victory over K.C.? The Chiefs are a notoriously bad road team. Still, the Chargers were seen as one of the rising young powers in the NFL after Bobby Ross's first season as coach. Cutting back as much as they did doesn't make sense. The competition has improved too much. Denver underwent a major restyling, Kansas City now has Joe Montana and the Raiders have Jeff Hostetler. San Diego may have made a drastic policy mistake.



The loss of Bernstein can't be minimized on an offense that runs as much as it passes. The Chargers still have Marion Butts, who took over after Bernstein's injury, but Butts averaged a full yard less per carry than Bernstein did and has less dimension. Ross has to get more out of Ronnie Harmon, who led the team with 79 receptions but carried the ball from scrimmage just 55 times. The draft brings stumpy Natrone Means of North Carolina, who can be a hit in the pros if he keeps his weight around 235 instead of 255. Means has good hands and the Chargers may be able to run him outside as well as inside.

The quarterback situation is not totally settled, despite the heroics of Stan Humphries in the second half of the season. Humphries was acquired to fill the hole which occurred when

starter John Friesz went out for the season with a knee injury. Friesz returns and will contend for the job. Nevertheless, Humphries had impressive numbers: 16 touchdown passes, a 57.9 completion percentage and 3,356 yards, the most since Hall of Famer Dan Fouts was a Charger. He is now 15-6 as an NFL starter.

Anthony Miller, who went to the Pro Bowl for the third time, is the big guy in the passing game. He led the AFC with 1,060 yards and caught seven touchdown passes. Harmon, as dangerous a receiver coming out of the backfield as there is in the game, just missed being the second 1,000-yard producer. He had 914 yards. Nate Lewis gained more than 1,000 all-purpose yards as a receiver, punt and kickoff returner, and occasional ball carrier. His 34 catches averaged 17.1 yards and he scored

four times. Shawn Jefferson, the third receiver, caught 29 passes and tight end Derrick Walker added 34.

Joe Milinchik of the Rams was signed to replace Richards at left guard. Right tackle is a mystery. Rookie Joe Cocozzo, the Michigan tough guy, is a guard. The rest of the line is stable. Courtney Hall is the center, Eric Moten the left guard, and Harry Swayne, whose offer sheet from Phoenix was matched by San Diego, is the left tackle.

Under Bill Arnsparger, who returned to coaching after a long sabbatical, the defensive philosophy is attack the quarterback and choke the run. The Chargers recorded 51 sacks, a jump of 23 from 1991. They led the AFC in defense against the run, allowing just 87.2 yards per game. Overall they were second in the AFC in defense. Right end Leslie O'Neal had 17 sacks, a career high. Rookie Chris Mims had 10 as a pass-rush specialist. Left end Burt Grossman had eight and right tackle Blaise Winter, whom Arnsparger picked off the football trash heap, six.

Arnsparger may put a new twist into the pass rush this year. The Steelers signed Pittsburgh's Jerrol Williams, who had nine sacks in 1991, then slipped a bit last season. If Williams is at top form, Arnsparger can attack from the outside with him and Junior Seau. In his third season, Seau again led the Chargers

in tackles with 108, 29 more than the next defender. Gary Plummer is dependable at middle linebacker.

With Blaylock gone and left cornerback Gill Byrd reaching 32 years of age, Beathard made Stanford corner Darrien Gordon his top draft pick. Gordon is good enough to start immediately. Marquez Pope, last year's second pick, could compete. Stanley Richards, the free safety, had a strong season. His 79 tackles were second to Seau's. The consistent Floyd Fields is the strong safety. Beathard matched offer sheets to keep reserves Darren Carrington and Donald Frank.

Lewis is the main return man. Punter John Kidd averaged 42.6 yards and place-kicker John Carney made 26 of 32 field goals.



ERIC BIENIEMY



LESLIE O'NEAL



NATRONE MEANS



JUNIOR SEAU

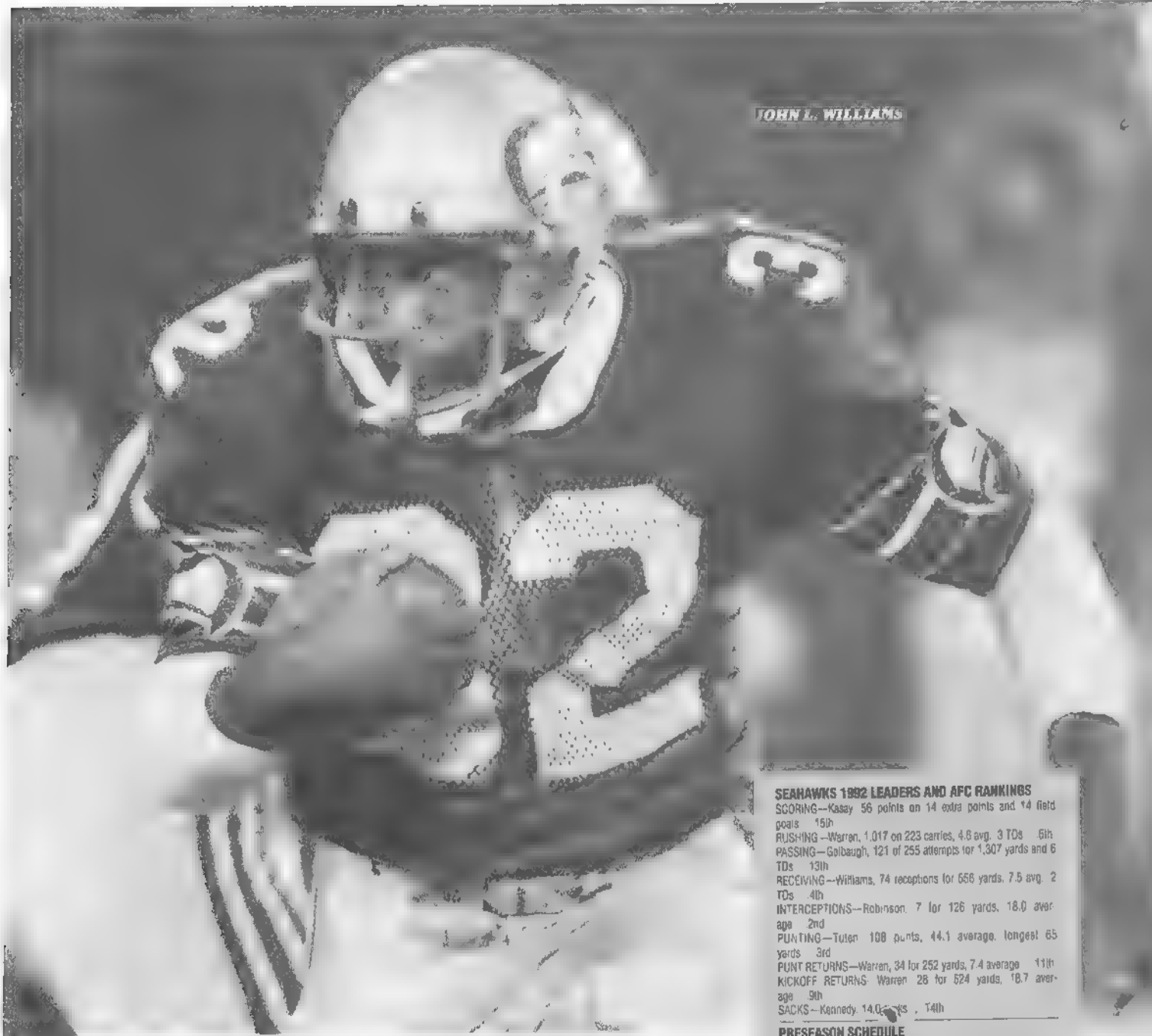
CHARGERS ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
52	Anno, Sam	LB	6-3	240	28	Southern Cal
85	Barney, Jonathan	WR	6	180	25	Hampilton
32	Bieniemy, Eric	RB	5-7	98	24	Colorado
13	Brennan, Brian	WR	5-10	85	31	Boston College
35	Bulls, Marion	RB	6-1	248	27	Florida State
22	Byrd, Gill	CB	5-11	198	32	San Jose State
3	Carney, John	K	5-1	170	29	Notre Dame
29	Carrington, Darren	FS	6-2	200	27	Northern Arizona
59	Clark, Reggie	LB	6-3	225	26	North Carolina
3	Clay, Brian	CB	6-2	90	30	Nebraska
28	Elder, Timmie	CB	5-9	178	31	Memphis State
6	Edwards, Ray	WR	5-10	80	25	Pasadena C.C.
26	Fields, Floyd	SS	6-0	208	24	Arizona State
27	Frank, Jonathan	CB	6-0	192	28	Winston-Salem St
7	Friesz, John	QB	6-4	218	26	Idaho
40	Fulton, James	S	6-0	208	24	Portland State
56	Grayson, David	LB	6-3	233	29	Fresno State
2	Gifford, Howard	RB	5-1	230	26	Illinois
92	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	270	26	Pittsburgh
53	Hall, Courtney	C	6	281	25	Pace
36	Hall, DeLeon	SS	6-1	211	29	Clemson
33	Harrison, Ronnie	RB	5-1	207	29	Iowa
34	Hendrickson, Steve	LB	6-0	250	27	California
12	Humphries, Warren	QB	6-2	223	28	NE Louisiana
80	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	72	24	Central Florida
71	Jonasson, Eric	T	6-5	303	25	Bloomington
10	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	32	Northwestern
98	King, Shawn	DT	6-2	280	27	North Alabama
81	Lewis, Nate	WR	5-1	98	27	Oregon Tech
51	Lick, Kevin	DE	6-2	25	24	North Carolina A&T
88	May, Terrence	TE	6-4	250	24	North Carolina
75	Milinchik, Joseph	G	6-5	290	30	N.C. State
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	189	28	Tennessee
94	Mims, Chris	DE	6-4	270	23	Tennessee
73	Mooney, Mike	T	6-6	320	24	Georgia Tech
77	Moten, Eric	G	6-2	306	25	Michigan State
58	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	30	Oklahoma
4	O'Hara, Pat	QB	6-3	205	25	Southern Cal
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	259	29	Oklahoma State
97	Pace, Anthony	DT	6-6	294	25	Arizona State
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	244	33	California
30	Pope, Marquez	CB	5-10	188	23	Fresno State
86	Pugh, Alford	TE	6-2	252	24	Weber State
24	Richard, Stanley	FS	6-2	97	26	Texas
55	Seau, Junior	LB	6-3	250	24	Southern Cal
23	Shenier, Anthony	S	6	195	26	Tennessee State
72	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	290	28	Rutgers
93	Thurman, George	DT	6-3	300	25	Alabama
43	Tolpelt, Phil	RB	5-1	210	24	BYU
25	Wainhouse, Sean	CB	5-10	180	25	Howard
89	Walker, Derrick	TE	6-0	244	26	Michigan
90	Walker, Reggie	DT	6-4	29	23	North Carolina A&T
64	Walby, Curtis	C	6	288	24	Clemson
57	Williams, Jerrol	LB	6-4	240	26	Purdue
96	Winter, Blaise	DT	6-4	278	31	Syracuse
87	Young, Deane	TE	6-1	260	25	Michigan State
70	Zandovsky, Mike	DL	6-2	305	28	Washington

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	182	Stanford
2	Means, Natrone	RB	5-10	256	North Carolina
3	Cocozzo, Joe	G	6-3	295	Michigan
4	Johnson, Ray Lee	DE	6-3	245	Arkansas
4	Bush, Lewis	LB	6-2	238	Washington St
5	Dunson, Walter	WR	5-9	71	Middle Tenn St
6	Casie, Eric	DB	6-3	22	Oregon
7	Miller, Doug	LB	6-4	219	South Dakota St
8	Green, Trent	QB	6-4	212	Indiana

JOHN L. WILLIAMS



THE SEAHAWKS

The Seahawks were defined by one three-game stretch last December. On the first Sunday they played in Pittsburgh and lost by six points. They returned home against Philadelphia and lost by a field goal in overtime. The next week, they played in Denver and lost, 10-6. This is a respectable defensive team in desperate need of some offense. Seattle's wobbly attack produced 13 touchdowns in 1992. Emmitt Smith, the Dallas running back, scored six more than that himself. The Seahawks' 140 points were 65 fewer than the NFL's other 2-14 team, New England. In seven games, they were either shut out or held without a touchdown. The most they scored in one game a year ago was 17 points.

The draft and free agency were designed to buck up the attack. But don't expect a dramatic

improvement. Free-agent signings were judicious. No all-pros were added. The No. 1 draft choice, Notre Dame quarterback Rick Mirer, won't be ready immediately.

The Seahawks felt their best move in the offseason was convincing defensive coordinator Tom Catlin not to retire. Any serious discussion of the Seahawks has to start with the defense, which boasts two of the best players in the NFL: tackle Cortez Kennedy and free safety Eugene Robinson. Kennedy may not be as wealthy as Reggie White yet, but he's probably more effective. He recorded 14 sacks, made 28 tackles for loss, forced four fumbles, finished second in team tackles with 92, and was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year. Robinson led the team with 94 tackles, intercepted seven passes, and went to the Pro Bowl.

SEAHAWKS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kasay, 56 points on 14 extra points and 14 field goals, 15th
RUSHING—Warren, 1,017 on 223 carries, 4.6 avg., 3 TDs, 6th
PASSING—Golbaugh, 121 of 255 attempts for 1,307 yards and 6 TDs, 13th
RECEIVING—Williams, 74 receptions for 656 yards, 7.5 avg., 2 TDs, 4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Robinson, 7 for 126 yards, 18.0 average, 2nd
PUNTING—Tuten, 108 punts, 44.1 average, longest 55 yards, 3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Warren, 34 for 252 yards, 7.4 average, 11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Warren, 28 for 524 yards, 18.7 average, 9th
SACKS—Kennedy, 14.0, 14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 INDIANAPOLIS (N)
 14 AT MINNESOTA (N)
 21 SAN FRANCISCO (N)
 28 AT HOUSTON (N)

Week		1992 SCORES	
September	5	AT San Diego	0-7
	12	AT RAIDERS (N)	0-9
	19	AT New England	10-6
	26	AT Cincinnati	3-2
October	3	SAN DIEGO	14-3
	10	OPEN DATE	
	17	AT Detroit	
	24	NEW ENGLAND	
November	31	AT Denver	6-10
	7	AT Houston	
	14	CLEVELAND	
	21	OPEN DATE	
December	28	DENVER	16-3 (OT)
	5	KANSAS CITY	14-21
	12	AT A. Raiders	7-20
	19	PHOENIX	
January	26	PITTSBURGH	4-20
	2	AT Kansas City	7-26

The secondary is solid and smart. Speedy Patrick Hunter plays right corner with Dwayne Harper on the left. Robert Blackmon, for whom the Seahawks matched an expensive offer sheet, has developed into a fine strong safety. Carlton Gray of UCLA, a heady cornerback, was the second-round draft choice.

Joe Nash, a solid veteran, plays alongside Kennedy in the four-man front. Jeff Bryant and Tony Woods are the experienced ends. Since there is not much depth, Catlin is still waiting for Michael Sinclair, a pass-rush demon in the World League, to build himself to NFL size. Left linebacker Rufus Porter had 9½ sacks and made himself into a strong all-round player. Terry Wooden is sound on the other side. Dave Wyman will return to battle Rod Stephens at middle linebacker if his foot injury is fully healed. Dean Wells of Kentucky was the only linebacker drafted.

The Seahawks would have preferred Drew Bledsoe of neighboring Washington State as their quarterback of the future, but the Patriots beat them to him. Since journeyman Stan Gelbaugh is the starter of record, it would not be a shock if Mirer ended up winning out, even though he requires a great deal of polishing. Mirer, along with coach Tom Flores, is on the spot. If Mirer is just another in a long line of unsuccessful replacements for Dave Krieg, it will be devastating for the franchise. Kelly Stouffer, for whom the Seahawks paid a ran-

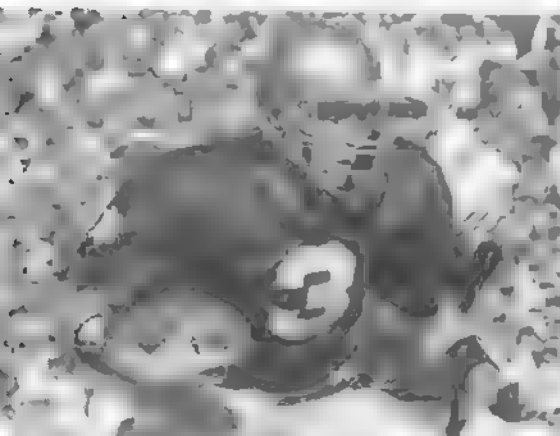
som, was cut adrift. Big Dan McGwire, 1991's No. 1, is coming back from a broken hip. He didn't have much mobility before he got hurt, fatal behind Seattle's line, which allowed a staggering 67 sacks. Mirer has the ability to run out of trouble.

The sole reinforcement for the offensive line is Mitch Ferrotte, a backup guard and center from Buffalo. He is a secret weapon, having caught three touchdown passes as a goal-line tight end for the Bills. The expectation is that Ferrotte will start at left guard, with Andy Heck shifting to right tackle, his third position in three years. Bill Hitchcock would then move from right tackle to right guard. Staying put would be left tackle Ray Roberts and center Joe Tofflemire.

No Seahawk wide receiver caught more than 27 passes last year. There was little time to throw downfield. Fullback John L. Williams was the top receiver with 74 catches, which produced an average gain of just 7.5 yards. Next was wide receiver Tommy Kane with 27, but free-agent signee Kelvin Martin, Dallas's third receiver and ace return man, will challenge him. Brian Blades, the other starter, caught 19 passes. If Mirer does get some time to set up, the Seahawks have two track men to catch the deep ball, returning Olympian Mi-

chael Bates and rookie Terrence Warren of Hampton. Tight end Ferrell Edmunds, more a blocker than a receiver, was signed from Miami. Chris Warren, once a return specialist, had 1,017 yards rushing and consequently the Seahawks had to spend serious money to match the offer sheet the Jets extended to him. Flores has plans to make more use of Warren as a receiver, lining him up in different spots out of the backfield.

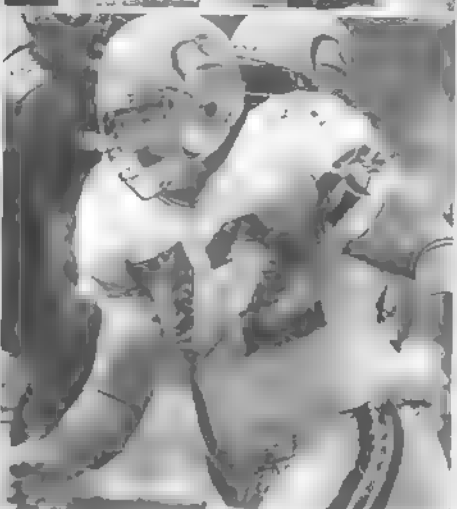
Punter Rick Tuten averaged 44.1 yards and place-kicker John Kasay made 14 of 22 field goals. Bates and Martin handle the returns.



RICK MIRER



KELVIN MARTIN



no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
61	Adams, Theo.	G	6-4	298	27	Hawaii
2	Bates, Michael	WR	5-10	189	24	Arizona
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6-0	197	26	Baylor
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	189	27	Miami
64	Briz, Derrick	G	6-3	287	29	Oregon State
77	Bryant, Jeff	DE	6-5	281	33	Clemson
84	Clark, Louis	WR	6-0	195	29	Mississippi St.
88	Danvers, David	WR	6-1	190	24	Penn. State
50	Davis, Anthony	LB	6-0	231	24	Utah
74	Dees, Andrew	T	6-6	274	24	Syracuse
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	6-2	184	26	Florida State
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	300	35	Georgia
82	Edmunds, Ferrell	TE	6-6	254	28	Mainland
54	Feasei, Grant	C	6-7	263	33	Ablene Christian
31	Frank, Malcolm	CB	5-8	182	25	Baylor
51	Ferrotte, Mitch	G	6-3	286	28	Penn. State
18	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	31	Maryland
7	Graham, Jeff	QB	6-5	220	27	Long Beach St.
5	Green, Anthony	WR	5-11	190	26	W. Kentucky
87	Green, Paul	TE	6-3	230	27	Southern Cal
35	Hagy, John	S	6-0	190	28	Texas
23	Harston, Stacey	CB	5-8	180	26	Northern Ohio
29	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	174	27	S.C. State
66	Heck, Andy	G	6-6	238	28	Noire Dame
76	Hitchcock, Bill	T	6-6	291	28	Purdue
68	Hunter, John	G	6-8	300	28	BYU
27	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	188	29	Nevada
20	Jefferson, James	CB	6-1	199	30	Texas A&M
43	Johnson, Tracy	FB	6-0	230	27	Clemson
30	Jones, James	FB	6-3	232	32	Florida
93	Junior, E.J.	LB	6-3	242	34	Alabama
83	Jurkun, Trey	TE	6-2	237	32	Louisiana Tech
81	Kane, Tommy	WR	5-11	181	29	Syracuse
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	189	24	Georgia
78	Kerr, Mike	T	6-7	285	28	BYU
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6-3	293	25	Miami
63	Lee, Ronnie	T	6-3	296	37	Baylor
6	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	28	Boston College
36	Mayes, Ruben	RB	5-11	201	30	Washington St.
44	McCloughan, Dave	S	6-1	185	27	Colorado
10	McGwire, Dan	QB	6-8	243	28	San Diego St.
47	McKinney, Daran	TE	6-6	240	24	Central Michigan
71	Millard, Bryan	G	6-5	277	33	Texas
98	Murphy, Kevin	LB	6-2	235	30	Oklahoma
72	Nash, Joe	DT	6-3	278	33	Boston College
97	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	227	29	Southern
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6-6	304	24	Virginia
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	191	30	Colgate
37	Robinson, Rafael	S	5-11	200	24	Wisconsin
91	Rodgers, Tyrone	DT	6-3	266	24	Washington
24	Shamsid-Deen, M.	RB	5-11	200	24	UT-Chattanooga
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6-4	256	25	E. New Mexico
59	Spritski, Bob	LB	6-3	235	24	Central Florida
48	Stayner, Larry	TE	6-5	241	24	Boise State
94	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	27	Georgia Tech
85	Thomas, Doug	WR	5-10	176	24	Clemson
86	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-11	175	27	Oregon State
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-3	273	28	Arizona
21	Treggs, Brian	WR	5-9	161	23	California
62	Tuagaia, Heli	DE	6-4	274	27	California
14	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	28	Florida State
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6-2	226	26	Ferrum
22	Williams, John L.	FB	5-11	231	29	Florida
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6-3	236	26	Syracuse
57	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	269	28	Pittsburgh
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	248	29	Stanford

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Mirer, Rick	QB	6-2	216	Noire Dame
2	Gray, Carlton	CB	6-0	182	UCLA
4	Wells, Dean	LB	6-2	238	Kentucky
5	Warren, Terrence	WR	6-1	186	Hampton
7	McCrory, Michael	DE	6-4	240	Wake Forest
8	Blackshear, Jeff	G	6-5	280	N.C. Louisiana
8	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6-2	259	Valdosta State

AFC Central



BOD WOODSON

STEELERS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson, 113 points on 29 extra points and 28 field goals 3rd
PUSHING—Foster, 1,690 yards on 390 carries, 4.3 avg., 1 TDs 1st
PASSING—O'Donnell, 185 of 313 attempts for 2,283 yards and 13 TDs 3rd
RECEIVING—Graham, 49 receptions for 711 yards, 14.5 avg., 1 TD 116th
INTERCEPTIONS—Perry 6 for 69 yards, 11.5 average 13rd
PUNTING—Royals, 73 punts, 42.7 avg., longest 58 yards 5th
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 32 for 364 yards, 11.4 avg., 1 TD 1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Woodson, 25 for 469 yards, 18.8 average 8th
SACKS—Lloyd, 6.5 sacks 114th

PRESEASON

August	1	San Francisco at Barcelona, Spain
	7	N.Y. JETS (N)
	14	At N.Y. Giants (N)
	22	WASHINGTON (N)
	26	At Minnesota (N)

1993 SCHEDULE		1992 SCORES
September	5	At SAN FRANCISCO
	12	At L.A. Rams
	19	CINCINNATI 20-0
	27	At Atlanta (N)
October	3	OPEN DATE
	10	At SAN DIEGO 23-6
	17	NEW ORLEANS
	24	At Cleveland 9-17
	31	OPEN DATE
November	7	At Cincinnati 21-9
	15	BUFFALO (N) 20-28
	21	At Denver
	28	At Houston (N) 29-24
December	5	NEW ENGLAND
	13	At Miami (N)
	19	HOUSTON 21-20
	26	At Seattle 20-14
January	2	CLEVELAND 73-13

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

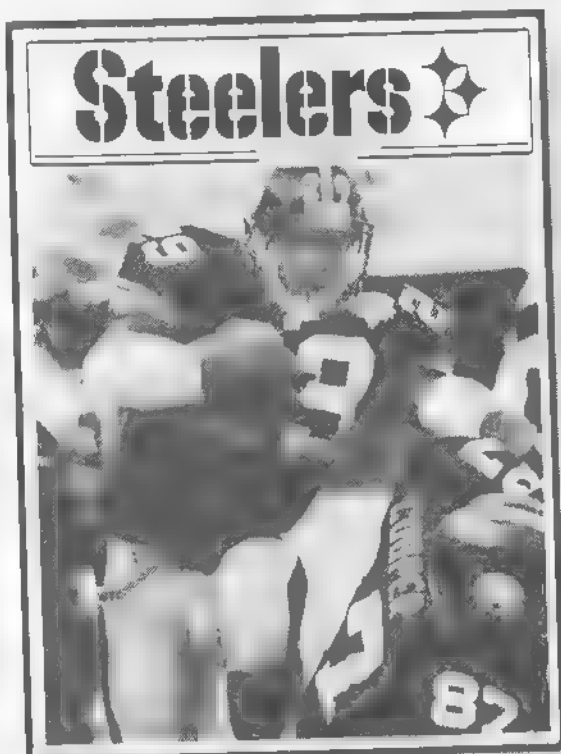
The Steelers were determined that they were not going to be the football version of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the NFL's era of free agency. Their profiles were similar: same small market, no bottomless pit of resources, vulnerable to incursions by the predator teams. The predators invaded the Steelers as the Pirates had been invaded. The difference is that the Steelers fought back. They won the division in a surprise last year and they meant to prove that Cowher Power under their young coach, Bill Cowher, had not been a fluke.

So when Tampa Bay targeted the Steelers, first signing veteran linebacker Hardy Nickerson and then getting the signature of newly anointed starting quarterback Neil O'Donnell on an offer sheet, and when the Chargers signed linebacker Jerrol Williams, the Rooney family paused for reflection, then struck back.

The most important strike was the decision to meet the Bucs' offer to O'Donnell, even though the Steelers felt that their offense did not require a franchise quarterback to lead it. They will pay O'Donnell top money since there might have been a crisis in confidence on this young team had he departed.

Then they went into the free-agent market themselves to sign veteran pass rusher Kevin Greene of the Rams to replace Williams at the position vital in their blitzing attack. Pass rush is important to the Steelers since they remain a big-play, power-offense team with a slim margin for error. Their two victories over Houston, their main rival in the division, were by five points in the season opener and one point in November. The draft was aimed at strengthening the defense. The top two picks are from Colorado's strong unit: Deon Figures, the big-play cornerback, was first and Chad Brown,

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an outside linebacker with pass-rush possibilities, was second. Two linemen and a defensive back were selected later.

Relentless consistency was the hall mark of Cowher's first season in Pittsburgh. The Steelers didn't lose more than two in a row on their way to an 11-5 record and their first division championship in 10 years. Cowher and Pittsburgh, his native city, are a good match. No rookie coach in Pittsburgh ever came close to winning as many games. His accomplishment was all the more impressive since he followed the 23-year reign of Hall of Famer Chuck Noll and all the pressure that entailed.

The team Cowher has put together could have a long run. O'Donnell is just 27. Barry Foster, the AFC's leading rusher, is 25. Jeff Graham, the top receiver, is 24. The offensive line, shaken up last year, has no significant age now that veteran Tunch Ilkin signed with Green Bay after he was informed that Leon Searcy, last year's No. 1 draftee, would get his job at right tackle. Defensively, the Steelers had to import Greene to get a potential starter

Offensively, everything turns around Foster, the squat, 217-pounder who ripped through opposing defenses for 1,690 yards a year ago. Foster gained 100 yards or more in 12 games, tying an NFL record and demolishing the former team standard (seven) set by Hall of Famer Franco Harris. He also became a more frequent pass target, finishing second on the Steelers with 36 catches. Merrill Hoge remains a solid blocker for Foster and a clutch receiver. Graham, who finally got to play in his second season, led the team with 49 catches and a 14.5-yard average with just one touchdown. But he drops too many balls, as does Dwight Stone, the other starter. Watch for Ernie Mills's development. He has speed and catches the ball in traffic. Three of his 30 grabs went for touchdowns. The draft brought Andre Hastings, the Georgia star whose speed the NFL scouts questioned.

Cowher retained the same quick, finesse-type linemen from the Noll era, but he changed identities, replacing veterans and failed draft choices with young players. Duval Love, acquired in Plan B, won the job at left guard and Carlton Hasegig reached the Pro Bowl at right guard. Dermontti Dawson established himself as one of the premier centers. John Jackson plays left tackle opposite Searcy. Both tight ends, Adrian Cooper and Eric Green, are major blocking factors in the conservative attack. The question is whether

Green will ever be as involved in the passing game as he was in his super rookie season.

The Steelers are tough to pigeonhole. They are a far better team in Three Rivers Stadium, where they have won 10 of their last 12 games, than they are on the road. Yet they were launched by a strong start last year, when they won three straight, two of them on the road. There is one disturbing pattern: a weakness against NFC opposition. Three of the five losses last year were to NFC Central teams, against whom they did not score a touchdown. This year they play the tougher NFC West.



30 or more. David Little, 34, is the incumbent right inside linebacker, but he's already being pushed by pro sophomore Levon Kirkland.

Of course, there are always the uncertainties of free agency. Rod Woodson, the all-pro left cornerback, seems destined to be the Reggie White of 1994, when his contract expires. Woodson not only is matched up against the opposition's swiftest receiver, but last year he finished second on the team in tackles, forced four fumbles, intercepted four passes, blocked a field goal and was the No. 2 sacker. That translates to boxcar figures in today's market. Woodson's status may be an extra incentive for the Steelers to win it all in the AFC now. Greg Lloyd, whom the Steelers developed into one of the NFL's better linebackers, is another player whose demands were supposed to be too rich for Pittsburgh resources. But the front office, in a show of commitment, re-signed Lloyd to a big contract just two months ago.

O'Donnell had the highest pass-completion percentage in Steeler history, 59.1, a reflection of the ball-control, low-turnover style favored by offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt. The Terry Bradshaw days are long past. O'Donnell passed for 13 touchdowns and 2,283 yards, but the number Erhardt treasured was O'Donnell's interception percentage, a paltry 2.9. Steeler quarterbacks, however, get sacked too much, considering the ball-control philosophy.



STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	age	college
1	Anderson, Gary	PK	5-1	8	34	Syracuse
	Avery, Steve	RB	6	245	27	N. Michigan
11	Brister, Buddy	QB	6-3	205	4	N.C. Central
85	Campbell, Rust	TE	6-5	234	24	Kansas State
	Clark, Greg	LB	6	225	2	Arizona State
87	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	168	25	Idaho State
80	Davenport, Charles	WR	6-2	210	25	North Carolina St.
64	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6-5	277	26	Louisiana State
63	Dawson, Dermontti	LT	6-2	288	27	Kentucky
68	Driscoll, Mark	WR	5-11	181	24	Connecticut
66	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	275	29	Winston-Salem
78	Finn, Mike	DL	6-4	298	28	Ark.-Pine Bluff
29	Foster, Barry	RB	5-10	217	25	Arkansas
60	Gammmon, Kendall	OL	6-4	273	25	Pittsburgh State
81	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-1	193	24	Ohio State
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	284	26	Liberty
	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	31	Auburn
22	Griffin, Larry	S	6-0	199	30	North Carolina
	Harrell, David	DB	6-1	200	25	Georgia
77	Hasegig, Carlton	G	6-1	290	27	Pitt-Johnstown
53	Hinkle, Bryan	LB	6-2	229	34	Oregon
33	Hoge, Merrill	FB	6-2	230	28	Idaho State
	Holloway, Cornell	CB	5-10	182	27	Pittsburgh
78	Howe, Gary	NT	6-1	298	25	Colorado
65	Jackson, John	DT	6-6	290	28	Eastern Kentucky
44	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-0	184	27	Kentucky
25	Jones, Gary	S	6-1	216	28	Texas A&M
84	Jordan, Tim	TE	6-3	239	27	Indiana
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-0	247	24	Clemson
37	Lake, Camell	SS	6-1	210	28	JCLA
50	Little, David	LB	6-1	239	34	Florida
96	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	227	27	Fort Valley St.
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	291	30	UC-A
89	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	186	25	Florida
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	230	27	Maryland
55	Olavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	222	26	Pittsburgh
	Owens, Derrick	WR	6-2	202	23	Mississippi
39	Perry, Darren	FS	5-10	194	25	Penn. State
3	Royals, Mark	P	6-5	212	29	Appalachian State
72	Searcy, Leon	OT	6-3	305	24	Miami
24	Shelton, Richard	DB	5-8	189	27	Liberty
	Shepherd, Leslie	WR	5-11	180	24	Temple
	Simpson, Tim	DL	6-2	295	24	Illinois
40	Smagala, Stan	S	5-10	177	25	Notre Dame
69	Solomon, Adal	DL	6-5	288	25	Colorado
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	290	25	Colorado
20	Stone, Dwight	WR/RB	6-0	187	29	Middle Tenn. St.
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	205	27	Georgia Tech
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	OT	6-5	305	25	Maine
	Szymanski, Jim	DE	6-5	270	28	Michigan State
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	203	24	Winston-Salem St.
34	Thompson, Leroy	RB	5-10	215	24	Penn. State
	Tomczak, Mike	DB	6-1	204	31	Ohio State
	Vigore, David	OL	6-5	300	27	Minnesota-Duluth
23	Walker, Sammy	CB	5-11	200	24	Texas Tech
92	Webster, Elmerdo	LB	6-2	243	24	Rutgers
41	Wilcots, Solomon	S	5-11	202	29	Colorado
98	Williams, Gerald	NT	6-3	289	30	Auburn
42	Williams, Warren	RB	6-0	214	27	Miami
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	200	27	Purdue

DRAFT

rd.	name	pos.	h.	wt.	college
1	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	192	Colorado
2	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	236	Colorado
3	Hastings, Andre	WR	6-0	185	Georgia
4	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	266	Mississippi St.
5	Patele, Lonnne	G	6-4	306	UNLV
5	Woodard, Marc	LB	6-1	235	Mississippi St.
6	Williams, Willie	DB	5-10	181	Western Carolina
7	Zgonina, Jeff	DT	6-1	270	Purdue
8	Keith, Craig	TE	6-3	247	Lenoir-Rhyne
8	van Pelt, Alex	DB	6-2	225	Pittsburgh

AFCcentral



BUDDY RYAN

How does an NFL team, one of the most talented, dissipate a 32-point lead in a playoff game? The Oilers managed it against Buffalo, a team they had beaten soundly seven days earlier. But pro football's foremost underachievers did not heal their psychic wounds during the winter, they exacerbated them. Owner Bud Adams hired Buddy Ryan as the team's defensive coordinator after he fired Jimmy Eddy the day after the collapse in Buffalo. Ryan might be the right man to get the maximum out of players who too often play near their minimum, but it's not that simple. Oilers insiders swear that Adams promised Ryan and Kevin Gilbride, the offensive coordinator, that each would be promoted to head coach if Jack Pardee is fired. Maybe that "if" should be "when." The problem isn't fixed with more talent. The Oilers need something essential, but heart wasn't available in free agency and it's difficult to draft backbone.

If you stick to tangibles, the Oilers are an impressive bunch. They are the only team in the league to qualify for the playoffs in each of the last six seasons. They have nine Pro Bowl players. They were first in defense in the AFC and tied a 32-year-old team record by allowing just six rushing touchdowns. They didn't allow a 100-yard game by a receiver. The running game improved from tenth to third in the NFL in average gain per rush. They were first in the AFC in scoring efficiency with the 20-yard line, the red zone. They led the NFL in passing for the third straight year.

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So why don't they get more respect? Because they are capable of so much more but always fail to close the sale. "When we're good, we're good," said Bruce Matthews, their great center. "But when we're bad, we're pretty darn bad."

The debacle in Buffalo may have been the final straw. Other than the hiring of Ryan, the offseason was full of recriminations. Defensive tackle Ray Childress, the Oilers' warrior of warriors, raged over what he said was the front office's reneging on a vow to renegotiate his contract. When Ryan held his own mini-camps for the defense, Childress boycotted

RAY
CHILDRESS

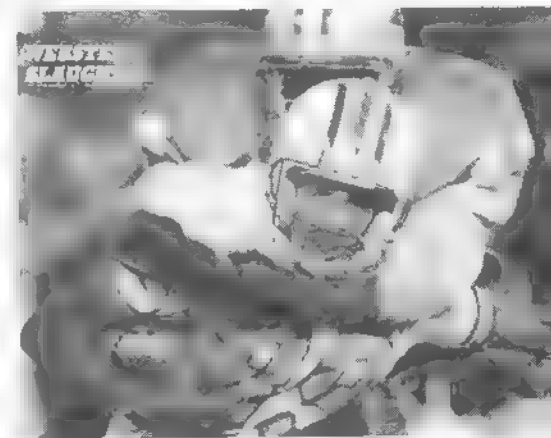
them. Wide receiver Curtis Duncan had a clause in his contract that awarded him \$15,000 if he made the Pro Bowl. He did, but he tied in the voting with teammate Ernest Givins. The Oilers sent him a check for \$7,500. He sued for free agency. Adams then sent a check for another \$7,500. Duncan still sued.

Houston virtually ignored free agency. General manager Mike Holovak is satisfied that they have enough talent to win. He's right. Their problem isn't talent. The Oilers are an older team, but there are only two places

where age may be critical, with Warren Moon at quarterback and Mike Munchak at left guard. Moon is 37. Yet, after he broke his arm in the tenth game last season, he returned for the playoffs and was nearly perfect in the first half against Buffalo before the whirlwind Munchak, once among the league's premier linemen, is 33 and showing it.

If Moon does falter, there is always Cody Carlson. He led the Oilers to a 4-2 record

when Moon was hurt. Overall, he's 7-4 as a starter. He completed 65 percent of his passes last year and threw for nine touchdowns. No matter who plays quarterback, he'll have all those impressive receivers in the run-and-shoot. Haywood Jeffries (90 catches



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and nine touchdowns) Duncan (82 receptions), Givns (67 and 10 touchdowns) and newcomer Webster Slaughter the ex-Brown who was signed during the season (39 and four touchdowns). The draft added Southern Cal's Travis Hannah (5-7 161) who was a world-class track star in the 400 meters.

The Oilers lost one offensive line starter left tackle Don Maggs, to free agency but gained an impressive replacement in the draft when they used their top pick to select Brad Hopkins of Illinois. Pardee can use Hopkins at left tackle or switch Matthews from center to that

position which he has played before. In the latter case John Flannery would be the center with Hopkins contending against Munchak and Doug Dawson for work. David Williams is the right tackle.

Middle linebacker Al Smith started in the Pro Bowl, but Ryan seems unimpressed. He lost no time in publicly criticizing Smith for

ramming Fuller reported late because of a holdout but then recorded eight sacks during the season and two more in the playoff game. Huge Doug Smith, who may not be Ryan's cup of tea and Jeff Arm both hurt a year ago, will battle for right tackle. Sean Jones, the right end also held out again but finished with 8½ sacks and hasn't missed a regular-season game in his nine-year career. Lee Williams was used as a roving lineman and finished second with 11 sacks.

Starting right corner Jerry Gray was released after the season despite his team-leading six interceptions, leaving Steve Jackson and Tony Brown to vie for the open spot. The erratic Chris Dishman's on the left side. Bo Orlando returns from the injured list to compete with Marcus Robertson at free safety. Bubba McDowell is a fixture on the strong side.

Greg Montgomery's 46.9 yard punting average led the league and broke the team record. Al Del Greco kicked 21 of 27 field goals. The Oilers could use a top return man.

OILERS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

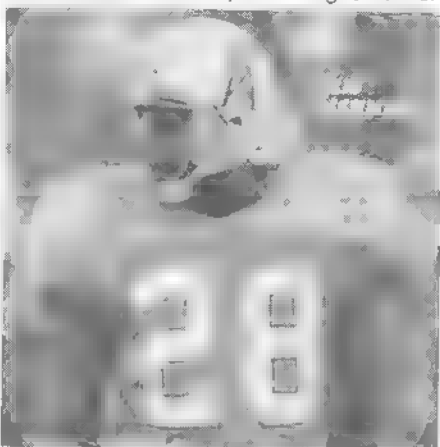
SCORING Del Greco, 104 points on 41 extra points and 2 field goals, 6th
RUSHING White, 1,226 yards on 265 carries, 4.6 avg., 7 TDs, 3rd
PASSING Moon, 224 of 346 attempts for 2,552 yards and 8 TDs, 1st
RECEIVING Jefferson, 90 receptions for 913 yards, 0 avg., 9 TDs, 1st
INTERCEPTIONS Gray, 6 for 24 yards, 4.0 average, 13th
PUNTING Montgomery, 53 punts, 46.9 avg., longest 68 yards, 1st
PUNT RETURNS Slaughter, 20 for 142 yards, 7.1 average, 13th
KICKOFF RETURNS Coleman, 14 for 290 yards, 20.7 average, unranked
SACKS Childress, 13.0 sacks, 15th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August 7 NEW ORLEANS at San Antonio, TX (N)
 16 DETROIT (N)
 21 DALLAS at San Antonio, TX
 28 SEATTLE (N)

1993 SCHEDULE

September 5 at New Orleans (N)
 12 KANSAS CITY 23-20 (OT)
 19 at San Diego 27-0
 26 LA RAMS
 October 3 OPEN DATE
 11 at Buffalo (N) 27-3
 17 at New England
 24 CINCINNATI 26-10
 3 OPEN DATE
 November 7 SEATTLE
 14 at Cincinnati 38-24
 21 at Cleveland 7-4
 28 PITTSBURGH (N) 24-29
 December 5 at Atlanta
 12 CLEVELAND 14-24
 19 at Pittsburgh 20-21
 25 at San Francisco
 January 2 NEW JERSEY (N)



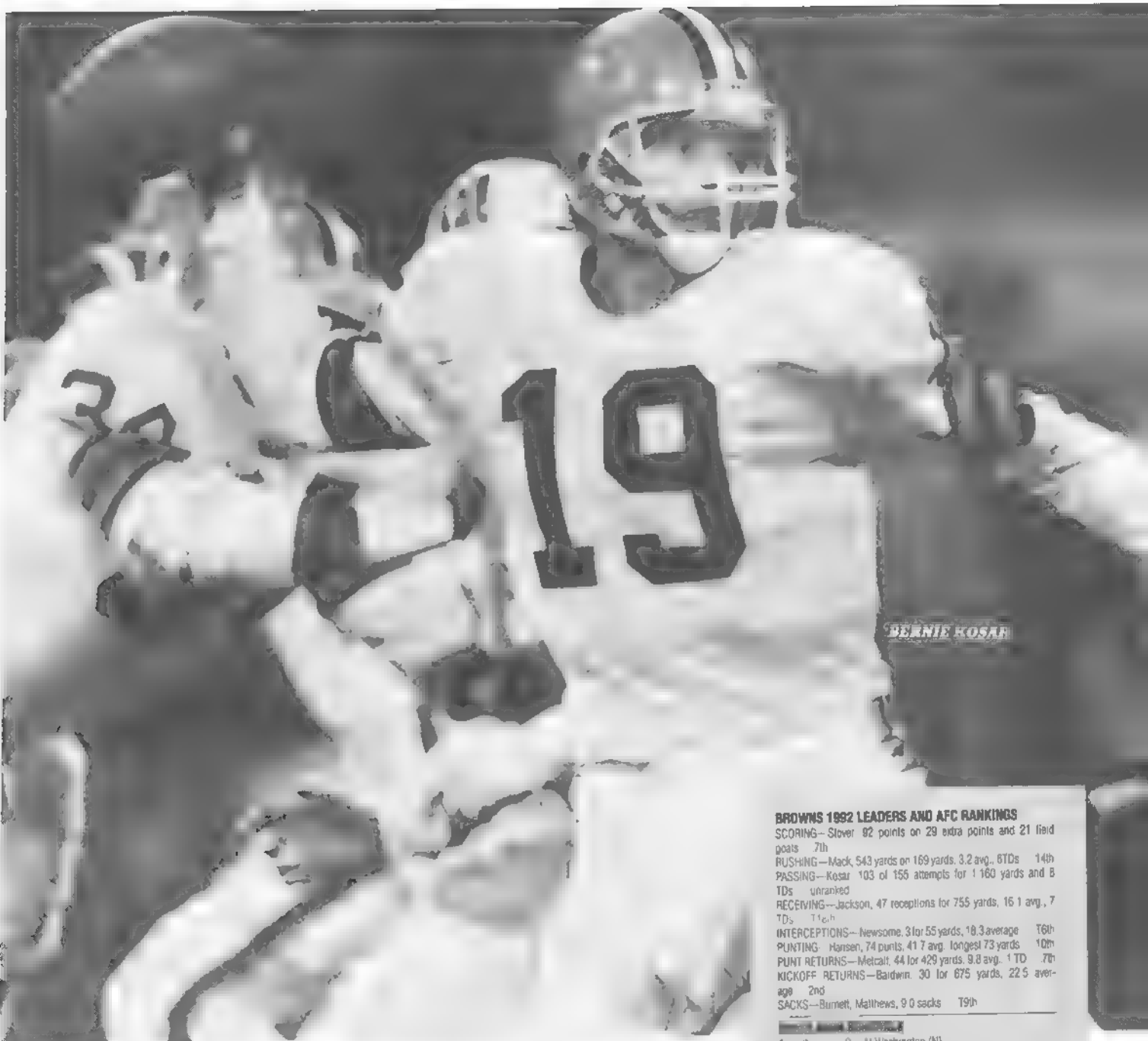
carrying too much weight. Ryan's critiques could be part of his motivating technique. He likes his players ornery. Smith is flanked on the left by Lamar Lathon and by Eddie Robinson on the right. Robinson made a rookie teams with his play. Michael Barrow, the Miami All-America, was a second-round draft pick. Childress, who had 13 sacks, was the other defensive Pro Bowl player. Left end Wil-

OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht	wt	age	college
76	Arm, Jeff	DT	6-6	272	25	Notre Dame
58	Bowden, Joe	LB	5-11	230	23	Oklahoma
13	Brown, Gary	RB	5-1	229	24	Penn State
22	Brown, Tony	CB	5-9	183	23	Fresno State
98	Burns, Chris	DE	6-4	282	23	Middle Tennessee St.
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	202	30	Baylor
79	Childress, Ray	DE	6-6	272	31	Texas A&M
67	Coleman, Pat	WR	5-7	173	26	Mississippi
66	Jawson, Doug	LC	6-3	288	32	Texas
3	Del Greco, Al	PK	5-10	200	31	Auburn
28	Dishman, Chris	CB	6-0	188	28	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin	T	6-5	305	25	North Carolina
38	Dumas, Mike	S	5-11	181	24	Indiana
80	Duncan, Curtis	WR	5-11	184	28	Northwestern
55	Flannery, John	OL	6-3	304	24	Syracuse
95	Fauler, William	DE	6-3	274	31	North Carolina
81	Givns, Ernest	WR	5-9	172	29	Louisville
83	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	166	33	Texas Tech
	Huerta, Carlos	PK	5-7	172	24	Miami
24	Jackson, Steve	CB	5-8	182	24	Purdue
84	Jeffries, Haywood	WR	6-2	201	29	N.C. State
37	Johnson, Dale	CB	6-2	175	26	Howard Payne
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	268	31	Northeastern
56	Kozak, Scott	LB	6-3	222	28	Oregon
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	252	26	Houston
29	Lewis, Darryl	CB	5-9	188	25	Arizona
74	Matthews, Bruce	DL	6-5	291	32	JSC
86	Mays, Damon	WR	5-9	170	25	Missouri
25	McDowell, Bubba	S	6-1	198	27	Miami
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	278	26	Houston
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-4	215	29	Michigan State
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	212	37	Washington
83	Munchak, Mike	G	6-3	284	33	Penn State
54	Norgard, Erik	DL	6-1	282	28	Colorado
45	O'Bradovich, Ed	LB	6-0	247	24	Michigan State
26	Orlando, Bo	S	5-10	180	27	West Virginia
7	Richardson, Buck	LB	6-1	228	24	Texas A&M
68	Roberts, Tim	DT	6-8	318	24	So. Mississippi
31	Robertson, Marcus	DB	5-11	197	24	Iowa State
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6-1	245	23	Alabama State
53	Seale, Eugene	LB	5-10	260	29	Lamar
89	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-1	175	29	San Diego St.
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	251	29	Utah State
99	Smith, Doug	DT	6-8	309	34	Auburn
71	Toeter, Mike	DT	6-2	260	26	Michigan
32	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	29	Oklahoma
88	Welman, Cary	WR	5-9	173	26	JSC
44	White, Lorenzo	T	5-1	222	27	Michigan State
73	Williams, David	T	6-5	297	27	Florida
39	Williams, James	CB	6-0	175	23	Texas Southern
97	Williams, Lee	DL	6-6	271	31	Bethune-Cookman

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht	wt	college
1	Hopkins, Brad	OT	6-3	300	Illinois
2	Barrow, Michael	LB	6-1	236	Miami
4	Hannah, Travis	WR	5-7	166	Southern Cal
5	Mills, John Henry	TE	6-1	220	Wake Forest
6	Bradley, Chuck	OT	6-5	305	Kentucky
7	Robinson, Patrick	WR	5-9	175	Tennessee St.
8	Bishop, Blaine	DB	5-9	198	Baylor State



CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns haven't qualified for the playoffs since 1989, which is about three years beyond the patience level of Art Modell, the team's owner. Modell said some things after last season that sounded a lot like an ultimatum. The team has been 6-10 and 9-7 under coach Bill Belichick, but Modell told him not to take it personally. If Belichick is as bright as they say, he'll take it personally. The Browns made many moves during the offseason, enough to make them a dark horse in the division. There are football people other than Modell who expect Cleveland to be measurably better this season.

Free agency brought wide receiver Mark Carrier and quarterback Vinny Testaverde from Tampa Bay, guard Houston Hoover from

Atlanta, and cornerback Najee Mustafaa (the former Reggie Rulland) from Minnesota. Wheeling and dealing in the draft produced Jerry Ball, once the NFL's premier nose tackle, in a trade with the Detroit Lions. The No. 1 draftee, Michigan center Steve Everitt, should start somewhere.

Belichick had to do something about his offensive line. The number of sacks it allowed is respectable, but the truth is that the Browns seldom throw downfield. Bernie Kosar, who gets knocked around enough as it is, has been throwing under the coverage almost exclusively for the last two years. The statistics always look O.K., until you discover the low yards per pass attempt. That's why Hoover was signed and Everitt was drafted. Jay Hilgenberg is the center, so look for the coaches

BROWNS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stover, 92 points on 29 extra points and 21 field goals. 7th
RUSHING—Mack, 543 yards on 169 yards, 3.2 avg., 6TDs. 14th
PASSING—Kosar, 103 of 155 attempts for 1,160 yards and 8 TDs. unranked
RECEIVING—Jackson, 47 receptions for 755 yards, 16.1 avg., 7 TDs. 11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Newsome, 3 for 55 yards, 18.3 average. 16th
PUNTING—Hansen, 74 punts, 41.7 avg., longest 73 yards. 10th
PUNT RETURNS—Metcalfe, 44 for 429 yards, 9.8 avg., 1 TD. 7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bairdwin, 30 for 675 yards, 22.5 average. 2nd
SACKS—Burnett, Matthews, 9.0 sacks. 19th

1992 SCHEDULE

August 9 At Washington (N)
 14 New England at Toronto, Canada (N)
 21 L.A. RAMS (N)
 27 At Tampa Bay (N)

Month	Week	Opponent	Record
September	5	CINCINNATI	37-21
	13	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	—
	19	At L.A. Raiders	28-16
	26	At Indianapolis	3-14
October	3	OPEN DATE	—
	10	MIAMI	23-27
	17	At Cincinnati	10-30
	24	PITTSBURGH	17-9
	31	OPEN DATE	—
November	7	DENVER	0-12
	14	At Seattle	—
	21	HOUSTON	14-17
	28	At Atlanta	—
December	5	NEW ORLEANS	—
	12	At Houston	24-14
	19	NEW ENGLAND	19-17
	26	At L.A. Rams	—
January	2	At Pittsburgh	13-23

to find somewhere else to play Everett, who is too talented to sit. Ed King is a good guard but there's talk of moving him to tackle and switching Dan Fike to guard.

The receiving should be improved with the signing of Carrier, who had 56 catches and four touchdowns for the Bucs, and the return of Lawyer Tillman (ankle) and Patrick Rowe (knee) from sick bay. Michael Jackson tied for the team lead with 47 catches, seven touchdowns, and a 16-yard average. There's a hole at tight end since Mark Bavaro signed with Philadelphia. But the reliable Pete Holohan had 20 catches and Scott Garbraith averaged 15.8 yards on his four receptions.

It's time for a reshuffle in the backfield with Tommy Vardell (369 yards) and Leroy Hoard

(236 yards) playing the feature roles. The big difference now is that the Browns finally discovered how to use Eric Metcalf. He had more than 1,300 all-purpose yards, scored seven touchdowns, and tied Jackson for the most receptions on the club. Veteran fullback Kevin Mack rushed for six touchdowns and tied Paul Warfield for sixth place (53 TDs) on the Browns' all-time list.

The defensive line will have a new, rounder look with Bail joining Michael Dean Perry at tackle. The Browns drafted end Dan Footman of Florida State. He didn't play as impressively as he looked in college, but he could turn into a force in the pros. Rob Burnett led the linemen with 60 tackles and tied for the team lead in sacks with nine. James Jones started all 16 games in his second season and even caught a touchdown pass from Kosar in a goal-line format on against Houston. Anthony Pleasant is the other line starter.

The Browns put a premium on restocking their linebacking, drafting three of them. Michael Caldwell of Middle Tennessee is valued for his athleticism, which should pay off in the nickel and dime coverages. The others are Rich McKenzie of Penn State and Travis Hill of Nebraska. The solid veteran middle man Mike Johnson. David Brandon scored two touchdowns from his outside-backer position. Clay Matthews played well in '92, but he's 37. Mustafaa missed most of last season due to

injury, but he can help the Browns right away, since they've made do with re-treads like Everson Walls. They must get a big season from free safety Eric Turner, who has Pro Bowl ability. His backfired partner, Vince Newsome who led the team with 127 tackles and four fumble recoveries, was forced to retire in May when a routine physical examination revealed that his spine had narrowed as the result of a neck injury he suffered in 1988.

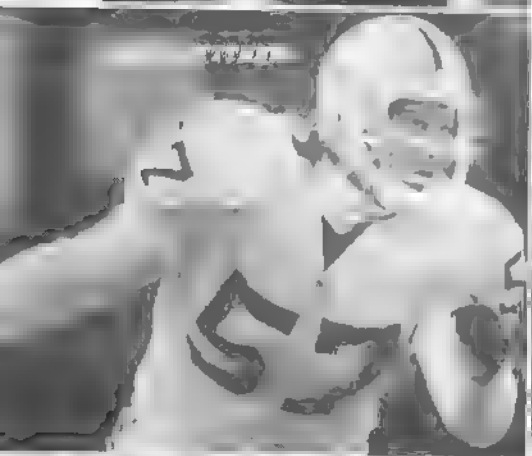
Metcalf takes care of the returns. Brian Hansen is an adequate punter but Robbie Keen was brought in to compete with Matt Stover for the place-kicking assignment.

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
38	Anderson, Melbie	CB	5-9	185	24	Texas A&M
23	Balwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	26	Mississippi
	Bail, Jerry	AT	6-1	298	29	SMU
37	Barnard, Harold	S	5-11	200	26	Michigan St.
58	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	230	28	Memphis St.
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	28	San Diego St.
90	Burnett, Rob	DL	6-4	270	26	Syracuse
	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	26	Nicholls St.
80	Cooks, Shawn	WR	6-2	207	26	Northern Arizona
72	Dair, Bob	T	6-5	285	25	Notre Dame
5	Duon, Richard	LB	6-3	252	24	South Carolina
35	Douglas, Derrick	FB	5-0	222	25	Louisiana Tech
74	Farren, Paul	DL	6-6	270	33	Boston U.
53	Fargo, Derrick	LB	6-3	255	27	Notre Dame
68	Fike, Dan	C	6	285	32	Florida
36	Foggie, Fred	DB	6-0	188	24	Minnesota
8	Galtsoff, Scott	TE	6-2	255	26	Southern Cal
	Goebel, Brad	QB	6-3	198	26	Baylor
	Haddix, Wayne	CB	6	205	30	Liberty
20	Haller, Alan	CB	5-11	185	23	Michigan St.
11	Hansen, Brian	P	6-2	215	30	Sioux Falls
63	Hilgenberg, Jay	T	6-4	270	34	Iowa
39	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-1	160	26	Northwestern St.
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-1	230	25	Michigan
89	Holohan, Pete	TE	6-4	244	34	Notre Dame
64	Hoover, Houston	G	6-2	300	28	Jackson State
25	Jackson, Alfred	CB	6-0	180	26	San Diego St.
1	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	95	24	Southern Miss
94	Johnson, Bill	JL	6-4	295	25	Michigan St.
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	230	3	Virginia Tech
96	Jones, James	DL	6-2	290	24	Northern Iowa
16	Jones, Solwyn	LB	6-0	185	23	Colorado St.
86	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	295	27	Western Carolina
	Keen, Robbie	PK	6-4	225	25	California
88	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	232	28	LSU
68	King, Ed	G	6-4	300	24	Auburn
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	30	Miami
97	Logan, Ernie	DL	6-3	285	25	East Carolina
34	Mack, Kevin	FB	6-0	225	31	Clemson
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	37	Southern Cal
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-1	175	23	UNLV
21	Metcalf, Eric	RB	5-10	190	25	Texas
65	Mistfeld, Rod	OL	6-2	290	24	Delaware St.
31	Minnifield, Frank	CB	5-9	180	33	Louisville
27	Moore, Steven	DB	5-11	205	26	Mississippi
48	Mustakas, Nijee	CB	6-1	180	29	Georgia Tech
22	Newsome, Vince	S	6-1	185	32	Washington
92	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	285	28	Clemson
17	Philcox, Todd	QB	6-4	225	27	Syracuse
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	258	25	Tennessee St.
70	Rienstra, John	G	6-5	275	30	Temple
86	Rowe, Patrick	WR	6-1	186	24	San Diego St.
75	Sagapolulele, Pio	DL	6-6	297	24	San Diego St.
84	Smith, Rico	WR	6-0	185	24	Colorado
50	Starns, Frank	LB	6-2	240	27	Notre Dame
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	25	Louisiana Tech
49	Swilling, Ken	LB	6-2	245	23	Georgia Tech
24	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	185	32	Southern Illinois
	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	30	Miami
91	Thornton, John	DL	6-3	303	24	Cincinnati
65	Tillman, Lawyer	WR	6-5	230	27	Auburn
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	204	31	Ohio State
29	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	207	25	UCLA
44	Vardell, Tommy	FB	6-2	233	24	Stanford
28	Walls, Everson	DB	6-1	185	34	Grambling

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
	Everitt, Steve	C	6-5	284	Michigan
2	Footman, Dan	DE	6-5	281	Florida State
3	Caldwell, Mike	LB	6-1	226	Middle Tenn. St.
5	Arrive, He-man	OT	6-5	210	Grambling
6	McKenzie, Rich	LB	6-3	235	Penn State
7	Hill, Travis	LB	6-1	245	Nebraska



KINCINNATI BENGALS

The Bengals may be the least equipped NFL team to cope with free agency. For one thing, they are frugal. For another, they represent two great football families, the Browns and the Shulas, whose culture says you develop championship players. The Bengals still intend to live by the college draft. They had a good one this past April, collecting three players—Alabama defensive lineman John Copeland, Michigan tight end Tony McGee, and Ohio State linebacker Steve Tovar—who should provide help almost immediately. But

1992 VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
16	Anderson, Roman	K	5-10	195	24	Houston
65	Arthur, Mike	C	6-3	280	26	Texas A&M
42	Bail, Eric	RB	6-2	220	27	UCLA
57	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	235	33	Central Michigan
3	Breech, Jim	K	5-6	175	37	California
81	Brown, Eddie	WR	6-0	185	31	Miami
38	Dingle, Mike	RB	6-2	240	24	South Carolina
29	Dixon, Ricky	S	5-11	191	27	Oklahoma
44	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	228	26	North Carolina
10	Fite, Jeff	P	6-1	210	24	Memphis State
50	Francis, James	LB	6-5	252	25	Baylor
97	Frier, Mike	DE	6-5	299	24	Appalachian St.
33	Fulcher, David	S	6-3	238	29	Arizona State
35	Garrett, Shane	WR	5-11	185	28	Texas A&M
58	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	245	29	Cincinnati
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	25	South Carolina
12	Hollas, Donald	QB	6-3	215	26	Pace
26	Isaiah, Richard	WR	6-0	175	25	Toledo
11	Johnson, Lee	PK	6-2	200	32	BYU
24	Jones, Adrian	CB	6-0	182	24	Missouri
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	29	SMU
55	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	231	29	San Diego St.
7	Klingler, David	DB	6-2	205	24	Houston
64	Kozarski, Bruce	G	6-4	287	31	Holy Cross
69	Krumme, Tim	NT	6-2	274	33	Wisconsin
56	McDonald, Ricardo	LB	6-2	235	24	Pittsburgh
62	Melander, Jon	G	6-7	280	27	Minnesota
26	Miles, Castell	RB	6-0	236	22	Houston
99	Miltz, Alonzo	DE	6-4	278	29	Florida
73	Moyer, Ken	T	6-7	287	27	Toledo
85	Nix, Roosevelt	DE	6-6	292	26	Central St.
23	Overton, Don	RB	6-1	225	26	Fairmont St.
15	Pederson, Chris	QB	6-3	218	23	Iowa State
80	Pickens, Carl	WR	6-2	206	23	Tennessee
32	Price, Mitchell	CB	5-9	181	26	Tulane
69	Query, Jeff	WR	6-0	185	26	Miliken
61	Rayam, Tom	T	6-6	297	25	Alabama
62	Reasens, Gary	LB	6-4	234	31	NW Louisiana
88	Rembert, Reggie	WR	6-5	200	27	West Virginia
67	Riggs, Jim	TE	6-5	245	30	Clemson
79	Rogers, Lamar	DE	6-4	292	26	Auburn
77	Sargent, Kevin	T	6-6	284	24	E. Washington
98	Savage, Tony	DT	6-3	285	26	Washington St.
76	Scrifford, Kirk	T	6-6	255	26	Montana
90	Shaw, Eric	LB	6-3	248	22	Louisiana Tech
64	Stegall, Mill	WR	6-0	184	23	Miami (OH)
96	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	264	28	Miami
49	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-4	233	24	Oregon
46	Thompson, Craig	TE	6-2	244	24	N.C. A&T
83	Thornlof, Reggie	WR	5-11	173	26	Bowling Green
86	Turner, Elbert	WR	5-11	165	25	Illinois
34	Vinson, Ferdinand	S	5-10	197	25	N.C. State
59	Walker, Kevin	LB	6-3	244	28	Maryland
63	Waller, Joe	T	6-7	292	30	Texas Tech
37	Wheeler, Leonard	CB	5-11	189	24	Troy State
39	White, Sheldon	CB	5-11	190	28	Miami (OH)
4	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-3	217	28	Oregon State
94	Williams, Alfred	LB	6-6	240	25	Colorado
31	Williams, Darryl	S	6-0	191	23	Miami
71	Williams, Nate	DE	6-2	287	25	Mississippi St.
60	Withycombe, Mike	G	6-5	297	29	Fresno State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Copeland, John	OT	6-4	280	Alabama
2	McGee, Tony	TE	6-4	246	Michigan
3	Tovar, Steve	LB	6-3	245	Ohio State
3	Parlan, Ty	DT	6-6	264	Arizona
4	Stimmons, Marcello	DB	5-11	185	SMU
5	Duckett, Forey	DB	6-3	193	Nevada
6	Scott, Tom	OT	6-5	331	East Carolina
7	Gunn, Lance	DB	6-3	220	Texas
8	Pellrey, Doug	K	5-11	178	Kentucky

DAVID KLINGLER

BENGALS 1992 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Breech, 88 points on 31 extra points and 19 field goals. 6th.
RUSHING—Green, 1,170 yards on 285 carries, 4.4 avg. 2 TDs. 4th.
PASSING—Eason, 144 of 278 attempts for 1,407 yards and 11 TDs. 11th.
RECEIVING—Green, 41 receptions for 214 yards, 5.2 average. 23rd.
INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 4 for 65 yards, 16.3 average. 75th.
PUNTING—Johnson, 76 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 64 yards. 9th.
PUNT RETURNS—Pickens, 16 for 229 yards, 12.7 avg., 1 TD. unranked.
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bail, 20 for 411 yards, 20.6 average. 5th.
SACKS—Williams, 10.0 sacks. 77th.

August	7	NY GIANTS (N)
	14	At Indianapolis (N)
	20	At Detroit (N)
	27	PHILADELPHIA (N)

		1992 SCORES
September	5	At Cleveland 2-37
	12	INDIANAPOLIS 17-21
	19	At Pittsburgh 0-20
	26	SEATTLE 21-3
October	3	OPEN DATE
	10	At Kansas City
	17	CLEVELAND 30-10
	24	At Houston 10-26
November	31	OPEN DATE
	7	PITTSBURGH 9-21
	14	HOUSTON 24-38
	21	At N.Y. Jets 14-17
December	28	At RAIDERS 24-21 OT
	5	At San Francisco (N)
	12	At New England 20-10
	19	LA RAMS
January	26	ATLANTA
	2	At New Orleans

even with a successful draft, the Bengals bear the look of a last-place team.

Unofficially, the Boomer Esiason era at quarterback ended last season when David Klingler, the future of the team, took over. It became official in the spring when Esiason was traded to the New York Jets and coach David Shula announced that the offense would drop the play-action characteristic from its repertoire, which was the trademark of Boomer's salad days. Klingler will be a classic, drop-back passer. He learned the hard way last season, completing fewer than half of his 98 passes, throwing for just three touchdowns and getting the stripes knocked off his



helmet when the Pittsburgh Steelers sacked him 11 times in one game. The Bengals' commitment to Klingler is so deep that Jay Schroeder was signed as the backup. After his Raider days, Schroeder has a "for emergency use only" stamp on him.

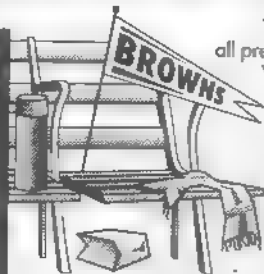
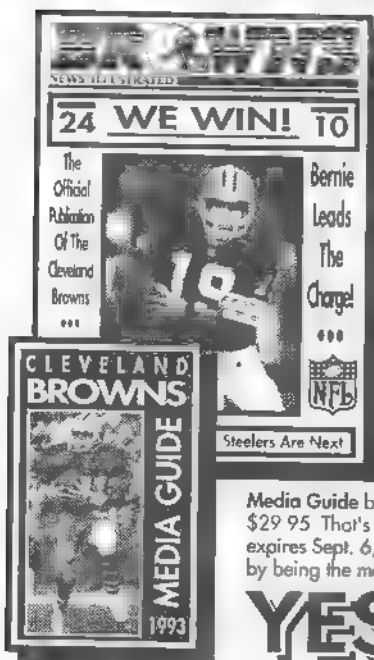
In order to give Klingler some time, Jim McNally, one of the most respected offensive line coaches in the league, will have to make chicken salad out of chicken scratch. The only line starter with a reputation is left guard Bruce

Kozerski. Right tackle Joe Walter is showing signs of wear. Kevin Sargent started at left tackle as a rookie free agent, but he may be needed at center. Mike Withycombe should fit in somewhere. Tom Scott of East Carolina was the only lineman drafted and he was just a sixth-round pick.



Only Seattle had poorer passing production than Cincinnati, which averaged only 121.4 yards per game. It didn't help that wide receiver Tim McGee (35 catches) was signed by Washington. With Eddie Brown still a serious question because of injury, Klingler's main targets will be the erratic Reggie Rem-

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bert and Carl Pickens, the AFC's top offensive rookie in '92. Pickens caught just 26 passes last year, but he made a number of big plays. Rembert caught 19. It will be a shock if second-round pick Tony McGee doesn't win the starting job at tight end.

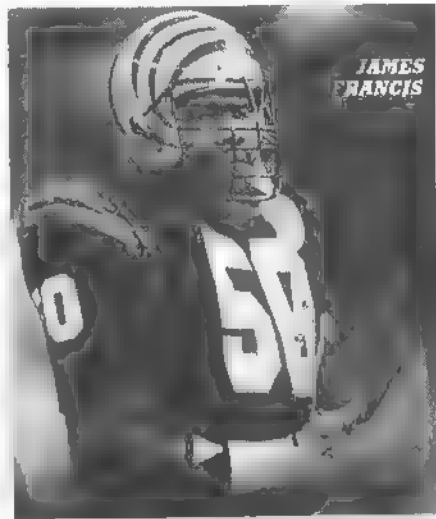
The outlook is a lot brighter with the running game. Harold Green looked like a big James Brooks at times, finishing fourth in the AFC with 1,170 rushing yards. He also led the Bengals in receiving with 41 catches, although they averaged a mere 5.2 yards. The Bengals matched the Jets' offer sheet to Derrick Finner, so the expectation is that he and Green will be in the lineup at the same time, which should be a help to Klingler.

The pass-defense statistics are a contradiction. The Bengals had a robust sack total, 45, but they were last in the AFC in average passing yards yielded (207.9). The star up front is Alfred Williams, who had 10 sacks. The star in the making is Copeland, the top draft pick, whom the consensus of pro scouts considered the best college lineman. The Bengals need a turnaround by Lamar Rogers and quicker development of Roosevelt Nix and Mike Frier since starters Dan Stubbins and Tim Krumme would fit better as backups.

The Bengals wanted a linebacker to stop the run and Tovar, the No. 3 draftee, may be the man. Outside linebacker James Francis, an all-round talent, is the team's best defender. It's hoped Tovar can line up immediately with Ricardo McDonald, last year's rookie surprise. Cornerback Eric Thomas, their best

cover man, signed with the Jets, a loss the Bengals couldn't afford. Nickel back Leonard Wheeler inherits the job. Rod Jones, the left corner, had a rocky year. The safeties, veterans Darryl Williams at free and David Fulcher on the strong side, are solid. Williams could become a star. Fulcher plays with painful bursters in his ankle, a worry that was inflated by Barney Bussey's departure to Tampa Bay.

Doug Peirrey, Kentucky's place-kicker, was drafted to challenge veteran Jim Breech (19 for 27). Lee Johnson is a reliable punter. More zip is needed in the return game.



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CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

PREDICTIONS

WESTERN DIVISION

- 1 Calgary Stampeders
- 2 Edmonton Eskimos
- 3 Saskatchewan Roughriders
- 4 British Columbia Lions
- 5 Sacramento Gold Miners

EASTERN DIVISION

- 1 Winnipeg Blue Bombers
- 2 Toronto Argonauts
- 3 Hamilton Tiger Cats
- 4 Ottawa Rough Riders

by RICK MATSUMOTO

TORONTO STAR

Canadian Football League functionaries now have their own reason to "Remember the Alamo." But their recollection won't be marked with the same chest-puffing pride that Texans display for Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, and William Travis, the legendary figures who died in a futile defense of the frontier fortress. Instead, their brief brush with the Lone Star State will be remembered as a moment when the battered image of the CFL suffered yet another bruise.

Led by commissioner Larry Smith, seven of the eight established teams had agreed in a historic vote on January 12 to grant the first two franchises ever awarded outside Canada to the San Antonio Texans and the Sacramento Gold Miners. The vote was taken at a board of governors meeting in Calgary, but the official announcement was reserved for a gala press conference in Toronto the following day, on which the newest members of the league—San Antonio's Larry Benson and Sacramento's Fred Anderson—were introduced to the media. Just two weeks later, however, at the annual Coach of the Year dinner in Edmonton, an embarrassed Smith was forced to announce that Benson had backed out. There would be no football, at least not the three-downs, 12-man-platoon Canadian version, at the brand-new Alamodome in San Antonio.

Smith, who took a barrage of flak from those who felt he had been in too much of a hurry to expand into the U.S., insisted it was the failure of corporate sponsors in San Antonio to come through with promised support for the Texans and not a lack of funds that caused Benson and his partners to have second thoughts about joining the CFL. Smith explained that while Benson, whose wealthy family includes his brother Tom, the owner of the New Orleans Saints, had the money to meet the first \$650,000 instalment of the \$3 million franchise fee and the \$6 million first-year operating capital, he was unwilling to risk it without committed backing from the community. Ben-

son had projected the sale of 25,000 season tickets, a major portion of which would be large blocks of corporate seats. The business community, however, wasn't so eager to jump on Benson's bandwagon.

Smith tried desperately during the following week to find a replacement for San Antonio. He approached individuals who had expressed interest in placing teams in Orlando and in the Akron-Toledo-Canton area in 1994 to see if they could accelerate the plans and be operational for 1993. But in the end, he came away resigned to going with a nine-team league for the '93 season. Anderson, who also had operated a franchise in the WFLA, remained committed to fielding a CFL

BLAKE MARSHALL



John E. Sokolowski JOCO Inc.

team in Sacramento. "I guess we'll be the Lone Ranger," quipped Anderson, who left no doubt that he felt betrayed by Benson.

Smith's troubles weren't over. There was still the question of how the CFL rule requiring each team to carry 20 Canadians, or non-imports, in CFL jargon, on its 37-man roster could be imposed on a team based in a U.S. city. As early as last fall, when he officially revealed the CFL expansion plans, Smith let it be known that he wanted to rid the league of its quota system that allowed teams to carry no more than 17 import (read American) players. The CFL Players' Association, as might be expected, objected to Smith's long-range plan. While it agreed that the quota system

could not be imposed in the long run on a U.S.-based team, it was determined that the rule would remain intact for teams in Canada. Without a quota system, it argued, Canadian players, who usually don't start playing football until high school, would not be given the opportunity to catch up to Americans, who begin the sport at a much earlier age. The CFL coaches—most of whom are Americans—would simply opt for an American player, who, immediately at least, is more proficient.

Smith presented a five-year plan to the CFLPA that would gradually eliminate an imposed Canadian quota. It was immediately rejected. Smith then declared that the league had no alternative but to abide by the collective bargaining agreement with the union for the remaining two years of the pact. But he added that Sacramento would be allowed to field an all-import lineup if it chose to do so. That brought quick condemnation from the Players' Association president, George Reed, who vowed that the association would fight the league. "The gloves are off," said Reed. "We're not going to bend over when the league comes to us asking for our help."

The players were already in a less than benevolent mood following the league's decision to reduce the salary cap from \$3 million to \$2.5 million. But with almost all the teams losing money in 1992, the players were resigned to taking pay cuts ranging as high as 30 percent in some cases.

Overall, Smith's success in getting the teams to agree to a cleaning up of the league's financial mess was hailed by the players and fans as a positive step. As was his handling of the shaky situations in Hamilton

1992 CFL FINAL STANDINGS

WESTERN DIVISION	w	l	OT	pts	diff
Calgary	13	5	0	26	607 430
Edmonton	10	8	0	20	552 515
Saskatchewan	9	9	0	18	505 545
British Columbia	3	15	0	6	472 667
EASTERN DIVISION	w	l	OT	pts	diff
Winnipeg	11	7	0	22	507 499
Hamilton	11	7	0	22	536 514
Ottawa	9	9	0	18	484 439
Toronto	6	12	0	12	469 523

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

Edmonton 22 • Saskatchewan 20
Hamilton 29 • Ottawa 28

DIVISION FINALS

Calgary 23 • Edmonton 22
Winnipeg 59 • Hamilton 11

GREY CUP

Calgary 24 • Winnipeg 10

and B.C., where the franchises appeared to be on the verge of collapse before new owners were found for each club. And except for the Winnipeg Blue Bomber brass, who have been adamantly opposed to expansion into the U.S., most observers were on Smith's side in believing that expansion was necessary for the survival of the CFL. But everyone agreed that it should not come about at the expense of eliminating the Canadian from the Canadian Football League.

STAMPEDERS' LAST STAND

CALGARY STAMPEDERS

The Stampeders will be trying to do what no CFL team has done for 11 years: Win back-to-back Grey Cups. No host team has done that since the now-defunct Montreal Alouettes in 1977. The last CFL team to win successive Grey Cups was the Edmonton Eskimos whose 1982 victory was the last in their incredible string of five straight titles.

Facing such enormous odds, the Stampeders would be more than satisfied simply to be back in the Grey Cup game, which will be played in their backyard, McMahon Stadium, on November 28. And nothing would please Stampeders owner Larry Ryckman more after he shelled out \$300,000 to the Toronto Argonauts to gain the rights to this year's game. The Argos had obtained the rights as part of the agreement when Bruce McNall bought the Double Blue in 1991. But after Torontonians, who were still entranced with the Blue Jays' World Series victory, showed little enthusiasm in last November's Grey Cup (only 42,000—some 8,000 short of capacity—attended the game), McNall was pleased to dump the rights on Ryckman.

The Stampeders' owner, however, won't have any trouble selling the game in Cowtown, especially if the Stamps are part of the show. That's what Ryckman is counting on. And as long as he has Doug Flutie (Boston College) calling the signals and providing the leadership and excitement at quarterback, Ryckman has an excellent chance of coming out a winner on the field and at the box office.

Wally Buono, who earned Coach of the Year honors after guiding the Stamps to last year's title, will not have to make many adjustments to his lineup. The only forced changes will come in the defensive backfield where all-star Darryl Hall (Washington) headed off to the NFL and rover Greg Peterson (BYU) called it quits after nine seasons. Ken Watson (Livingston), who was in and out of the lineup last year, could wind up in Hall's spot.

Flutie, who passed for 5,945 yards and 32 touchdowns last season, will continue to be blessed with the CFL's best receivers in Allen Pitts (Fullerton State), who led the league in receiving with 103 catches for 1,591 yards; David Sapunjis (Western Ontario), 77-1,317, and Carl Bland (Virginia Union), 72-1,052. Running back Keyvan Jenkins (UNLV), whose often overlooked blocking skills allowed Flutie the extra time to scramble, and Canadian Andrew McVey (Toronto) fill out the backfield.

The Stamps added some international flavor and impressive size to their talent-laden defensive line when they made Mark Pearce, a 6-6, 278-pound native of England who spent two seasons with Barcelona of the World League and a year at Nova Scotia's Cape Breton University, their first-round pick in the Canadian university draft. His arrival may have signaled the end of Kent Warnock's days as a Stampeders. The team is high on two other Canadian linemen, Srecko Zizakovic (Ohio State) and Harald Hasselbach (Washington) and



with the addition of Pearce, rumors were that Warnock, who had a tryout with the Pittsburgh Steelers, would be elsewhere this season.

EDMONTON ESKIMOS

The Eskimos appeared to have created a huge hole in their lineup when they decided they couldn't afford quarterback Tracy Ham and shipped him to Toronto as the main prize in a dramatic 16-player trade. But six weeks later, the Eskimos plugged that opening when they swung a second deal, this time with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, for Damon Allen. Oddly enough, Allen, the younger brother of the L.A. Raiders' Marcus Allen, had been the Eskimos' No. 1 quarterback before he jumped to Ottawa as a free agent in 1989 for more money than Edmonton was offering. In doing so, he paved the way for Ham to assume the starting role with the Eskimos.

After three years in Ottawa, Allen moved on to Hamilton last season as a free agent and for a substantial raise. But this year, moving didn't coincide with a pay hike. In fact, with the league having reduced its salary cap, Allen reportedly accepted a cut from the Eskimos in order to stay off the unemployment list.

Rickey Foggie (Minnesota), another Argo transplant, and Tom Muecke (Baylor) will compete for the backup role. Foggie, described by head coach Ron Lancaster as the team's quarterback of the future, will likely stay put. There may be another quarterback in the wings in Rickey Jones (Alabama State), who spent last season as a defensive back with the L.A. Rams.

Allen, who will be working for new offensive coordinator Adam Rita, the former Toronto head coach, has a fine set of targets in Jim Sandusky (San Diego State), who caught 78 passes for 1,243 yards last year, the ever-dangerous Henry "Gizmo" Williams (Eastern Carolina), D.K. Smith (Central State), the Argos' all-time leading receiver who came West in the big trade, and Eddie Brown (Iowa State). There is some patching to do on the line, where guard Pierre Vercheval (Western Ontario) left for a tryout with the Detroit Lions and Trevor Bowles (San Jose State) retired.

Although the Eskimos' 51 sacks last season tied them for second place with the Argos, Lancaster is looking to put even more pressure on opposing passers. To that end he's hoping that tackle Leonard Johnson (Georgia Military), picked up from the Argos, will aid last year's leader, Bennie Goods (Alcorn State), who had 10 sacks. The linebacking crew led by Willie Pless (Kansas), the CFL's outstanding defensive player, and Leroy Blugh (Bishop's) is solid. The return of perennial all-star Don Wilson (North Carolina State), a so in the Argo trade, will offset the loss of Enis Jackson in the same deal.

Place-kicker Sean Fleming (Wyoming) will have to improve or he could lose his job to rookie John Cutler (Alberta), the son of former Edmonton great Dave Cutler.

ALBERTA BLAZERS

Kent Austin may just find out how some of his rival quarterbacks live. In his five full seasons in Regina, the 30-year-old Austin (Mississippi) has enjoyed the luxury of working behind a solid, experienced offensive line. That's al-

lowed him to become one of the CFL's all-time passing leaders. Last season, for example, he led the CFL in passing attempts (770), completions (459), yardage (6,225), and completion percentage (59.6). But the line has started to develop some cracks. Roger Aldag finally called it quits after 17 years with his hometown Riders, leaving a huge gap at right guard. Center Mike Anderson (San Diego State) and tackle Vic Stevenson (Calgary) were released after rejecting pay cuts, and tackle Craig Hendrickson (Minnesota) was also balking at the idea of a reduced salary. Guard Chris Gioskos (Ottawa) signed as a free agent with the B.C. Lions.

Head coach Don Matthews isn't panicking, however. To begin with, he expects Anderson, Stevenson, and Hendrickson back in the fold. And he feels that Paul Vajda, who missed all of last season, and Hendrickson's brother, Scott, will be adequate replacements for



Gioskos and Aldag. Just in case they're not, the Riders have also recruited former Pittsburgh Steeler Terry Long, and Matthews said he wouldn't hesitate to go with an import on the line, something that hasn't been seen for several seasons in the CFL.

If Austin can get any semblance of pass protection from his line, he'll continue to assault passing records. Besides his own throwing skills, including a quick release, Austin has a fine receiving corps led by slotbacks Ray Elgaard (Utah), who earned his second award as Most Outstanding Canadian last season, and Jeff Fairholm (Arizona), both of whom went over the 1,000-yard mark again. Reaching that plateau for the fourth straight year was Don Narcisse (Texas Southern). Newcomer Byron Williams (Texas-Arlington) is the fourth member of the unit.

Mike Saunders (Iowa) will give veteran Lucius Floyd (Nevada) a battle at running back. Brad Elberg (Queen's), the hero of the Vanier Cup, Canada's university championship, was the team's No. 1 pick in the draft. He opted to sign with the Philadelphia Eagles, but could be back in Regina by Labor Day if he doesn't make it.

To employ an import offensive lineman Matthews would have to use a Canadian at the linebacking spot occupied last year by Tyrone Jones (Southern), who has asked to be trad-

ed. Dan Grayson (Washington State) finished in the middle last year, but he'll get competition from newcomers Kevin Singleton and Ricky Anderson (Washington).

Matthews feels that even with the retirement of Robert Banks, he still has one of the league's best front fours in Bobby Jurasin (Northern Michigan) and Lance Cook (The Cathedral) at end and Jerald Baylis (Southern Mississippi) and Gary Lewis (Oklahoma State) at tackle. Matthews does plan to do some experimenting in the secondary, where he'll move Ventson Donelson (Michigan State) inside and let Charles Anthony (UNLV) and Stacey Harston (Ohio Northern) battle for the other halfback spot.

ONTARIO BLUEBERRIES

Fans out in Lotustand would like nothing better than to believe that their Lions are finally solid as a brick. After two years of turmoil under the helter-skelter ownership of flamboyant stock promoter Murray Pezim, the Lions were purchased midway through last season by Edmonton businessman Bill Comrie, who owns a string of furniture and appliance stores aptly called "The Brick."

In an effort to begin anew, Comrie dismissed Bob O'Billovich as general manager and head coach after the team had completed its 3-15 season. He brought in Eric Tillman, the long-time director of the Senior Bowl in Mobile, AL, whose previous CFL experience was as the personnel director of the Montreal



Concordes in the early 1980s. Tillman then hired Dave Ritchie, the defensive coordinator of the Ottawa Rough Riders, as head coach.

The twosome wasted little time making personnel moves aimed at getting the Lions back on the winning track and fans back in the empty seats at the B.C. Place dome. The Lions were the first team to go the free-agent route when they signed safety Sean Foudy (York) and defensive end Rob Prodanovic (Calgary) off the Ottawa Rough Riders' 1992 roster. The moves obviously didn't upset the Riders because the two clubs turned around and swapped a total of eight players, with the Lions getting guard Rob Smith (Utah State)

cornerback Less Browne (Colorado State), the league's interception leader the last three years, and linebacker Patrick Wayne (Simon Fraser). Among those going to Ottawa were guard Chris Gioskos (Ottawa), who had been signed as a free agent from Saskatchewan just a week earlier. The acquisition of Smith gives the Lions the CFL's Outstanding Offensive Lineman award winners for the past three seasons. Smith won it last year and Jim Mills (Hawaii) in 1990 and '91.

Speed on defense, however, was Tillman and Ritchie's main concern. They addressed that by not only acquiring Browne, Wayne Foudy, and Prodonovic, but by grabbing safety Patrick Burke (San Jose Community College) with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft and adding a second defensive back in Tom Europe (Bishop's) with their second choice. The Lions were also looking forward to the return of tackle Derek MacCready (Ohio State), who didn't play a down last season after blowing out a knee on the first day of training camp.

Danny Barrett (Cincinnati) has been reaffirmed as the starting quarterback despite a forgettable '92 season. Tillman attributed Barrett's poor performance to injuries and to a system that was more suited to Doug Flutie, Barrett's predecessor. Tillman also signed Jason Verduzco (Illinois), a 5-9 strong-armed passer whom many are likening to Flutie.

The one dark cloud hanging over the Lions was their ongoing feud with running back Jon Volpe (Stanford), the CFL's Rookie of the Year in 1991 and the runner-up for the rushing leadership last season. Volpe rejected a \$110,000 offer, which left him at approximately the same salary as last season, and instead demanded \$130,000 to return and play out his option or \$250,000 per season to sign a new three-year deal. Tillman finally removed the club's offer from the table and ordered the explosive ball carrier to show up at camp under the terms of his existing contract or face suspension. Just in case Volpe dug in his heels and sat out the season, Tillman resigned former Winnipeg Blue Bomber Robert Mimbs, the CFL's rushing leader in 1990-91.

have been moments when Anderson wondered if he wouldn't have been wise to hightail it out of there along with Benson before turning over the first \$650,000 installment of his franchise fee.

The Gold Miners, who won the World League of American Football championship as the Surge last spring, found themselves starting from scratch in putting together a team. Most of the better Surge players, such as quarterback David Archer (Philadelphia Eagles) had either gone to the NFL or had been gobbled up by CFL teams, as was the case with wide receiver Eddie "Downtown" Brown (Edmonton). Then there was the prolonged delay in determining whether Sacramento would have to use Canadian players. Finally, after negotiations between the CFL and its players' association broke, it was de-



cided that the Miners would be allowed to field an all-American roster if they chose to do so. But by then it was March, and the Miners had yet to sign their first player.

One-time Buffalo Bills head coach Kay Stephenson, who had guided the Surge to their WFLAFL title, was confirmed as the Miners' coach. He and GM Tom Huisken set about locating and signing players. But few were household names outside of their own homes. Among the few recognizable names for CFL fans was Jerry Kauric, who kicked the winning field goal for the Edmonton Eskimos in the 1987 Grey Cup game and then jumped to the Cleveland Browns in 1990, where he beat out veteran Matt Barr. But a year later, Kauric was out of work, and after a brief stint in Calgary, he played for the Ohio Glory in the WFLAFL in '92. Another former CFLer is wide receiver Troy Johnson (Southern), who spent the 1991 season with Winnipeg after a stop with the San Diego Chargers.

The Miners got their first break in April when Archer returned to the fold. A free agent, Archer negotiated with the Eagles as well as the Steelers and Broncos, but decided that his best opportunity to be a starting quarterback was back in Sacramento. The Miners were eager to bring Archer back because of his

popularity as a player with the Surge. For much the same reason, the Miners were concentrating their other signing efforts on former Surge players and those who had been standouts in the many colleges in the Sacramento area. Among those signed were running back Mike Pringle (Cal Fullerton), offensive lineman Brad Henke (Arizona), and linebacker Mark Leebetter (Washington State).

Sacramento also dipped into the past when it talked David Wilson, the 34-year-old former quarterback of the New Orleans Saints, out of retirement.

EASTERN DIVISION

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS

In last fall's Grey Cup game, the Calgary Stampeders' \$1 million quarterback, Doug Flutie, dominated the Blue Bombers' \$500,000 quarterback, Matt Dunigan, in taking the Stamps to a decisive 24-10 victory. While Flutie was the clear-cut winner in the ultimate battle of the CFL's two highest paid players, the fact is that Dunigan (Louisiana Tech) had less talent to work with. And upgrading that talent within the CFL's reduced \$2.5 million salary cap is the task facing Cal Murphy, the Bombers' GM and coach.

If anyone can do it, it's Murphy, who has returned to his dual positions after undergoing heart transplant surgery last July. Although often criticized for being frugal, Murphy, the self-described "dinosaur," has managed to put a contending team on the field season after season. Last year was no exception. Despite being hospitalized, Murphy had left the team in the capable hands of assistant GM Lyle Bauer and assistant coach Urban Bowman. They took the team to its third Grey Cup appearance in the last five years.

The Bombers came up with a brilliant new running back in CFL Rookie of the Year Mike Richardson (Louisiana Tech) who won the rushing crown with 1,153 yards after replacing Robert Mimbs early in the season. Murphy will have to come up with more finds like Richardson to give the Bomber attack, which generated 2,500 fewer yards than the Stampeders, more punch. The top need is at wide receiver, especially after Larry Thompson (Socorro College), the No. 1 target, suffered gunshot wounds in a mistaken-identity shooting at his Fairfield, CA, home in early March. Whether he's fully recovered won't be known until training camp. Former Philadelphia Eagles second-round draft pick Mike Belamy (Illinois) is a strong contender for one wideout.

With Danny McManus (Florida State) having played out his option and Sammy Garza (UTEP) undergoing a shoulder operation, the Bombers recruited a pair of quarterbacks to compete for the backup job behind Dunigan, former Houston Oilers Reggie Sack (Auburn) and rookie Keith McCant (Nebraska).

Defensively, the Bombers gave up 499 points and relinquished their long-standing honor as the stingiest defense in the league. The retirement of cornerback Rod Hill (Kentucky State) and the expected departure of veteran linebacker James West (Texas Southern) has prompted a rebuilding program. Cor-

SACRAMENTO'S GOLD MINERS

Fred Anderson doesn't wear a black mask, ride a white horse, or shoot silver bullets, but nonetheless the Gold Miners' affable owner finds himself in the self-proclaimed role of the Lone Ranger as he heads into his inaugural season in the CFL. He's found out it's a role fraught with unexpected, annoying, and worrisome hurdles.

Just two weeks after making the decision to buy into the CFL for a \$3 million expansion fee, Anderson, a Sacramento building supplies dealer, found himself deserted by his "kemo sabe" when San Antonio Texans owner Larry Benson, who had also been granted a franchise, changed his mind (or had it changed for him by his partners) and decided not to go boldly into a league where no American had gone before.

Annoyed at Benson's withdrawal, Anderson announced he would be "the Lone Ranger," the first U.S. team in the 110-year-old Canadian league. But several weeks later, with training camp rapidly approaching, there must

ian Freeman (Florida State) is a prime candidate to replace West, while Mark Berry is expected to step in for Hill.

WINNIPEG ARGOS

Will he or won't he? That was the question being asked ad nauseam about owner Bruce McNall's intentions surrounding his costly investment, Raghib (Rocket) Ismail, as training camp approached. Scarcely a week went by without some speculation that McNall was ready to sack Ismail, to whom he was doling out \$4.5 million a year for four years.

Though not an impact player (What wide receiver is?), Ismail has been a more than adequate performer, leading the league in kickoff returns and finishing second in combined yardage. McNall's concern with Ismail centered not on his on-field performance, but with his seeming failure to perform his off-field duties, for which he was receiving one of the highest salaries in pro football. Ismail has been accused of showing up for practice at the last minute (second?) to avoid reporters, failing to keep appointments, and skipping out early when he does attend a charity or promotional gathering.

Regardless of his foibles, Ismail was not the Argos' problem last season when they tumbled from Grey Cup champions to also-rans in 11 short months. The club's downfall began last May when they failed to re-sign quarterback Matt Dunigan, who ended up jumping to the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Without skill and leadership at the pivotal position, the Argos were a ship without a helmsman. With Rickey Foggie, John Congemi, Mike Kerrigan, and Blair Kiel taking turns calling the signals, the Argos managed to win just three of their first 11 games. That cost Adam Rita, who had received Coach of the Year honors just nine months earlier, his job.

The Argos made sure they would not be shortchanged at quarterback this season. In a blockbuster 16-player trade in January, they acquired veteran Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern) from the Edmonton Eskimos. With Foggie going the other way in the trade, Dennis Meyer, who took over from Rita, will likely select Kerrigan (Northwestern) as Ham's backup.

Mouse Bryant returns to the Argos as offensive coordinator after a 10-year sojourn through the USFL, NFL and WFLA to re-institute the run-and-shoot attack. Ham, an excellent runner with a strong arm and a keen instinct for the game, should thrive.

Defensively, the Argos gave up all-star back Don Wilson (North Carolina State) to Edmonton but received an all-star in return in Enis Jackson (Memphis State). Meyer will have to find come up with replacements for cornerback Ed Berry (Utah State), who was also part of the trade, and for Carl Brazley (Western Kentucky), who retired.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

It was just a matter of time before Don McPherson (Syracuse) became the Ticats' No. 1 quarterback. He got the top job without even a training camp battle this year, having been promoted automatically when Damon Allen was sent to the Edmonton Eskimos in the offseason in a four-for-one trade. In dealing Allen, the Ticats, who were taken over by a

group of local businessmen headed by Roger Yachetti and ex-TiCat John Michaluk last year, rid themselves of a \$300,000 contract.

McPherson joined the Ticats midway through the 1991 season after being released by the Philadelphia Eagles. While he's seen just limited playing time, especially after Hamilton signed Allen as a free agent last year, he has shown flashes of the passing and running abilities needed to be a quarterback in the CFL. With Allen's departure, 31-year-old Todd Dillon (Long Beach) seems assured of being McPherson's backup, while Dechane Cameron (Clemson), who was obtained in the Allen deal, will be brought along as No. 3.



John E. Sordowski/JOJO Inc.

Head coach John Gregory earned considerable applause for turning the 3-15 Ticats into an 11-7 contender for the Eastern Division title last season. He was rewarded with the added title of GM when Joe Zuger ended a 26-year relationship with the team as a player, coach, and executive by retiring in January.

Gregory's added responsibilities left him with the headache of trying to re-sign a record total of 22 players who had become free agents after playing out their options. Included on the list were veteran center Dale Sanderson (Tennessee), guard Jason Riley (British Columbia), defensive linemen David Bailey (Oklahoma State), Mark Mraz (Utah State), and Jeff Fields (Arkansas), linebacker John Motton (Akron), and defensive backs Coris Ervin (Central Florida), Tim Jackson (Nebraska), and Terry Wright (Temple). Fields and Ervin hoped to land jobs in the NFL. The Ticats did pick up an excellent linebacker in DeWayne Odum (California) in the Allen deal.

Gregory was able to take a large load off his mind when he re-signed Ken Evraire (Wilfrid Laurier), who blossomed into the best homebrew slotback in the East last season after four undistinguished seasons split between Ottawa and Hamilton. Evraire, who hauled in 61 passes for 1,081 yards, tops on the team last year, had played out his option and was being heavily courted by B.C. If Gregory had anything going for him in his efforts to re-sign the free agents, it was the fact that rival GMs were faced with the same salary restrictions and

were not in a position to entice players away from Hamilton with promises of rich contracts.

The Ticats could be in the market for a punter/place-kicker if veteran Paul Osbaliston arranges a deal with the B.C. Lions that would return him to his hometown of Vancouver.

OTTAWA REDSKINS

There'll be no Dexter Manley-type experiments this summer in the nation's capital. The Riders brought in the former Washington Redskins' defensive end whose drug problems ended his NFL career not only to hype the gate but to add his once awesome pass-rushing skills to their line. Manley was a model citizen who turned out to be an outstanding goodwill ambassador for the club. But he was a bust on the field and didn't get to play a regular season game.

This year the Riders will concentrate on improving their on-field performance, particularly on offense, hoping that a strong Grey Cup contender, rather than a gimmick, will attract the fans. In their first season after nearly going under as a franchise, the resuscitated Riders rose to 9-9 under rookie head coach Ron Smeltzer. However, an inconsistent attack prevented them from taking advantage of the best defense in the league and topping the 500 mark. That's Smeltzer's task this season.

Smeltzer's first step will be to sort out his quarterbacks. "We're going to have a definite 1-2-3 order," said Smeltzer. Tom Burgess (Colgate) returned to the Riders, with whom he started his CFL career in 1986, after losing his job to Matt Dunigan in Winnipeg. While he started Burgess most of the time, Smeltzer established a unique pattern of giving backups Scott Campbell (Purdue) and Terrance Jones (Tulane) playing time in the second quarter regardless of how the game was progressing. The idea was to acclimate both to game conditions. Campbell's sudden retirement in late April more or less solved his problem. Burgess will start, with Jones the backup. The No. 3 spot will go to rookie Cornelius Benson (Connecticut), who will be given the opportunity to develop.

Smeltzer will be looking to give wide receiver Stephen Jones (Central Michigan), who had 75 catches for 1,400 yards last year, some help. Speedy Wayne Walker (Texas Tech) could be that man. Smeltzer lost guard Rob Smith, the CFL's top offensive lineman, who requested a trade to his hometown B.C. Lions. In return, the Riders received a promising lineman in Chris Gioskos, who had attended the University of Ottawa.

Defensively, the Riders could find themselves scrambling to fill holes if linebackers Angelo Snipes (West Georgia) and Brian Bonner (Minnesota) sign elsewhere. The Riders lost safety Sean Foudy (York) to B.C. as a free agent, then sent veteran cornerback Less Browne (Colorado State) and linebacker Patrick Wayne (Simon Fraser) to the Lions as part of an eight-player deal. Smeltzer got good news when rush end Greg Stumon (Southern Arkansas) re-signed after playing out his option. Smeltzer is high on Daved Benefield (Cal-Northridge), who spent last season on the practice roster after being unable to dislodge Snipes, the Eastern nominee for the league's outstanding defensive player. □

STATISTICS



RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
Field goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
San Francisco	54	22	29	3	53	54	18	27	0	431
Dallas	48	20	23	5	47	48	24	35	1	409
Minnesota	45	19	18	8	45	45	19	25	1	374
Philadelphia	44	19	20	5	40	44	16	25	1	354
New Orleans	35	10	19	6	33	35	29	34	0	330
Atlanta	39	3	33	3	39	39	18	22	0	327
L.A. Rams	36	12	23	3	38	38	15	20	1	313
N.Y. Giants	36	20	14	2	36	36	18	23	0	306
Washington	30	10	15	5	30	30	30	40	0	300
Chicago	34	15	17	2	34	34	19	26	0	295
Green Bay	30	7	20	3	30	30	22	29	0	276
Detroit	30	9	16	5	30	30	21	26	0	273
Tampa Bay	33	12	17	4	33	33	12	22	0	267
Phoenix	29	11	15	3	28	29	13	26	1	243

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	33	34	29	34	120
Lohmiller, Chup, Wash.	30	30	30	40	120
Elliott, Lin, Dall.	47	48	24	35	119
Cofer, Mike, S.F.	53	54	18	27	107
Revez, Fuad, Minn.	45	45	19	25	102
Jacke, Chris, G.B.	30	30	22	29	96
Hanson, Jason, Det.	30	30	21	26	93
Johnson, Norm, Atl.	39	39	18	22	93
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	34	34	19	26	91
Ruzek, Roger, Phil.	40	44	16	25	88
Zenderas, Tony, Rams	38	38	15	20	83
Bahr, Matt, Giants	29	29	16	21	77
Davis, Greg, Phoe.	28	28	13	26	67
Willis, Ken, T.B.-Giants	27	27	10	16	57
Murray, Eddie, K.C.-T.B.	13	13	5	9	28
Camarillo, Rich, Phoe.	0	1	0	0	0

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	19	18	1	0	114
Allen, Terry, Minn.	15	13	2	0	90
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	14	14	0	0	84
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	13	0	13	0	78
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	11	5	6	0	66
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	11	1	10	0	66
Rison, Andre, Atl.	11	0	11	0	66
Walters, Ricky, S.F.	11	9	2	0	66
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	10	7	3	0	60
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	10	0	10	0	60
Sanders, Barry, Det.	10	9	1	0	60
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	10	8	2	0	60
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	9	9	0	0	54
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	9	5	4	0	54
Anderson, Willie, Rams	7	0	7	0	42
Byner, Ernest, Wash.	7	6	1	0	42

Hillard, Dalton, N.O.	7	3	4	0	42
Irwin, Michael, Dall.	7	0	7	0	42
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	7	0	7	0	42
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	6	0	6	0	36
Carter, Chris, Minn.	6	0	6	0	36
Johnson, Johnny, Phoe.	6	6	0	0	36
Lang, David, Rams	6	5	1	0	36
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	6	0	6	0	36
Sherman, Heath, Phil.	6	5	1	0	36
Clark, Gary, Wash.	5	0	5	0	30
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	5	5	0	0	30
Farty, Duane, N.O.	5	0	5	0	30
Green, Willie, Det.	5	0	5	0	30
Lewis, Darren, Chi.	5	4	0	1	30
Martin, Eric, N.O.	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Kelvin, Dall.	5	0	3	2	30
McCallum, Ed, Giants	5	0	5	0	30
Muster, Brad, Chi.	5	3	2	0	30
Prichard, Mike, Atl.	5	0	5	0	30
Bunch, Jamod, Giants	4	3	1	0	24
Carter, Mark, T.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Craig, Roger, Minn.	4	4	0	0	24
Haji, Ron, T.B.	4	0	4	0	24
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	4	0	4	0	24
Jones, Brent, S.F.	4	0	4	0	24
Jones, Emory, Phoe.	4	0	4	0	24
Jones, Hassan, Minn.	4	0	4	0	24
Bo Amp, S.F.	4	2	2	0	24
Moore, Herman, Det.	4	0	4	0	24
Pearman, Brett, Det.	4	0	4	0	24
Wardle, Tim, Chi.	4	0	4	0	24
Young, Steve, S.F.	4	4	0	0	24
Byars, Keith, Phil.	3	1	2	0	18
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	3	1	2	0	18
Carter, Pat, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Chadwick, Jeff, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Dunbar, Vaughn, N.O.	3	3	0	0	18
Ellard, Henry, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Heyward, Craig, N.O.	3	3	0	0	18
Hill, Drew, Atl.	3	0	3	0	18
Hill, Randall, Phoe.	3	0	3	0	18
Hooten, Jeff, Santic	3	3	0	0	18
Mossey, Robert, Phoe.	3	0	0	3	18
Maggett, Dave, Giants	3	0	2	1	18
Monk, Al, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Orr, Terry, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Proehl, Ricky, Phoe.	3	0	3	0	18
Sanders, Devon, Atl.	3	0	1	2	18
Sanders, Ricky, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Small, Torrance, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
Sydney, Harry, G.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Taylor, John, S.F.	3	0	3	0	18
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Reiley, Johnny, Phoe.	2	1	1	0	12
Baker, Stephen, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Beach, Pat, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	2	1	1	0	12
Brown, Ivory Lee, Phoe.	2	2	0	0	12
Buckley, Terrell, G.B.	2	0	0	2	12
Carroll, Wesley, N.O.	2	0	2	0	12
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	2	0	2	0	12
Cross, Howard, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Drewrey, Willie, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Ervins, Ricky, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Goff, Robert, N.O.	2	0	0	2	12
Gray, Mel, Det.	2	0	0	2	12
Green, Mark, Chi.	2	2	0	0	12
Harris, Jackie, G.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
Jenkins, Carlos, Minn.	2	0	0	2	12
Johnston, Darrell, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Jordan, Steve, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12

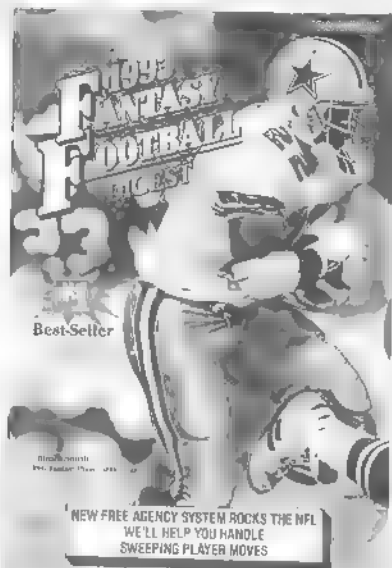
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Joyner, Seth Phil. . .	2	0	0	2	12
Kinchen Todd Rams	2	0	0	2	12
McDowell, Anthony T.B.	2	0	2	0	12
McMillan, Audrey, Minn.	2	0	0	2	12
Morgan, Anthony, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Price Jim Rams	2	0	2	0	12
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Smith, Tony, Atl.	2	2	0	0	12
Testaverde, Vinny T.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Turner, Odessa, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Workman, Vince, G.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Doieman, Chris, Minn.	1	0	0	1	*8
Aikman, Troy Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Armstrong, Ty, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Baye Robert Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Bal Jerry, Del.	1	0	0	1	6
Barrett Reggie, Del.	1	0	1	0	6
Beach, Sanjay G.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Bennett, Tony G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Blades, Bonnie, Del.	1	0	0	1	6
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6



Buck, Vince N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Caaway, Chris, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Campbell, Jeff, Del.	1	0	1	0	6
Carler, Dexter S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Chandler, Chris, Phoe.	1	1	0	0	6
Cook, Tori, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Copeland, Danny Wash	1	0	0	1	6
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Deprino, Robert, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Del Rio, Jack, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Dotson, Santana, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Edwards, Anthony, Phoe	1	0	1	0	6
Edwards, Brad Wash	1	0	0	1	6
Favre, Brett, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Hanks, Merton S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi	1	1	0	0	6
Henderson, Keith, Minn	1	1	0	0	6
Horton, Ray Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Howard, Desmond, Wash	1	0	0	1	6
Ingram, Mark, Giants	1	0	1	0	6
Jackson, John Phoe	1	0	1	0	6
Jenkins, Me, Del	1	0	0	1	6
Jennings, Keith, Chi	1	0	1	0	6
Jennings, Stanford, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Johnson, John, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Joe, Minn.	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, Tony, Atl	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, Reggie, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Jones, Roger, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Logan, Marc, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Marshall, Wilber, Wash	1	0	0	1	6
Maryland, Russell, Dall	1	0	0	1	6
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
McL. S. Sam N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Michel, Brian Wash	1	0	0	1	6
Parker, Anthony Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Phillips, Jason, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Reynolds, Ricky, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Richards, Curvin, Dall	1	1	0	0	6
Rose, Ken, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Scott, Todd Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Sherrard, Mike S.F.	1	0	0	1	6

RECORDS

Completions: 353, Don Majkowski, Green Bay (1989)
 Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)
 Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)
 Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frank Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)
 99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)
 99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)
 99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Gerry Allen, Washington (1968)
 99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

PASSING

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT TD	LONG	INT	PCT INT	SACK	YDS LOST	RATING
Young, Steve, S.F.	402	268	66.7	3485	8.62	25	6.2	180	7	1.7	29	152	107.0
Miller, Chris, Atl.	253	152	60.1	1739	6.87	15	5.9	189	6	2.4	16	103	90.7
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	473	302	63.8	3445	7.28	23	4.9	187	14	3.0	23	112	89.5
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	384	233	60.7	2775	7.23	19	4.9	175	11	2.9	60	437	87.3
Favre, Brett, G.B.	471	302	64.1	3227	6.85	18	3.8	176	13	2.8	34	208	85.3
Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	422	249	59.0	3287	7.79	19	4.5	172	16	3.8	15	119	82.9
Everett, Jim, Rams	472	281	59.2	3323	7.00	22	4.6	167	18	3.8	26	204	80.2
Chandler, Chris, Phoe.	413	245	59.3	2932	6.86	15	3.6	172	15	3.6	29	226	77.1
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	358	202	56.4	2486	6.94	13	3.6	183	12	3.4	31	167	76.2
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	358	206	57.5	2554	7.13	14	3.9	181	16	4.5	35	259	74.2
Gannon, Rich, Minn.	279	159	57.0	1905	6.83	12	4.3	160	13	4.7	25	177	72.9
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	479	269	56.2	3282	6.85	13	2.7	162	17	3.5	23	176	71.7

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Montana, Joe, S.F.	21	15	71.4	126	6.00	2	9.5	17	0	0.0	1	8	118.4
Wilson, Wade, Atl.	163	111	68.1	1366	8.38	13	8.0	160	4	2.5	8	58	110.1
Bono, Steve, S.F.	56	36	64.3	463	8.27	2	3.6	36	2	3.6	2	14	87.1
Simms, Phil, Giants	137	83	60.6	912	6.66	5	3.6	38	3	2.2	10	67	83.3
Saibury, Sean, Minn.	175	97	55.4	1203	6.87	5	2.9	51	2	1.1	15	116	81.7
Hosletter, Jeff, Giants	192	103	53.6	1225	6.38	6	4.2	46	3	1.6	24	148	80.8
Peele, Rodney, Det.	213	123	57.7	1702	7.99	9	4.2	178	9	4.2	28	170	80.0
Majkowski, Don, G.B.	55	38	69.1	271	4.93	2	3.6	32	2	3.6	9	60	77.2
Ware, Andre, Dal.	86	50	58.1	677	7.87	3	3.5	59	4	4.7	16	104	75.6
DeBerg, Steve, T.B.	125	76	60.8	710	5.68	3	2.4	128	4	3.2	8	66	71.1
Tolliver, Billy, Atl.	131	73	55.7	787	6.01	5	3.8	130	5	3.8	16	98	70.4
Beuerlein, Steve, Dal.	18	12	66.7	152	8.44	0	0.0	27	1	5.6	0	0	69.7
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	26	15	57.7	121	4.65	0	0.0	24	0	0.0	2	9	69.6
Wilks, Peter, Tom, Chi.	92	54	58.7	716	7.78	4	4.3	168	8	8.7	10	58	61.7
McMahon, Jim, Phil.	43	22	51.2	279	6.49	1	2.3	142	2	4.7	4	25	60.1
Kramer, Erik, Det.	106	58	54.7	771	7.27	4	3.8	177	8	7.5	15	80	59.1
Graham, Kent, Giants	97	42	43.3	470	4.85	1	1.0	44	4	4.1	7	49	44.6
Rosenbach, Tim, Phoe.	92	49	53.3	483	5.25	0	0.0	45	6	6.5	7	32	41.2
Pagel, Mike, Rams	20	8	40.0	99	4.95	1	5.0	22	2	10.0	0	0	33.1
Furrer, Will, Chi.	25	9	36.0	89	3.56	0	0.0	16	3	12.0	4	39	7.3
Sacca, Tony, Phoe.	11	4	36.4	29	2.64	0	0.0	16	2	18.2	0	0	5.3

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)
 Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)
 Longest: 94 yards, Joe Linzenich, Chicago (1931)

PUNTING

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TD	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Newsome, Harry, Minn.	72	3243	84	45.0	15	1	34	339	19	35.7
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	67	2947	82	44.0	10	0	31	218	19	37.7
Arnold, M. Del.	65	2846	71	43.8	10	1	30	356	12	34.7
Landela, Sean, Giants	53	2317	71	43.7	9	2	30	408	13	31.5
Saxon, Mike, Dall.	61	2620	58	43.0	9	0	34	397	19	33.5
Gardocki, Chris, Chi.	79	3393	61	42.9	9	0	38	351	19	36.2
Camari, Rich, Phoe.	54	2317	73	42.9	2	0	22	141	23	39.6
Feagles, Jeff, Phil.	82	3459	68	42.2	7	0	38	295	26	36.9
Rodriguez, Ruben, Dan-Giants	46	1907	55	41.5	4	1	23	205	9	34.5
Fulhage, Scott, Atl.	68	2818	56	41.4	3	1	44	482	11	33.0
Bracken, Don, Rams	76	3122	59	41.1	4	0	48	522	20	33.2
Stryzinski, Dan, T.B.	74	3015	57	40.7	11	0	22	117	15	36.2
Goodburn, Kelly, Wash.	54	2555	66	39.9	5	1	27	332	17	32.7
Wilmsmeyer, Klaus, S.F.	49	1918	58	39.1	2	0	23	177	19	34.7

NON-QUALIFIERS

McJannet, Paul, G.B.	36	1386	67	38.5	4	2	10	157	8	30.2
Prokop, Joe, Minn-Giants	32	1184	56	37.0	0	0	22	258	2	28.9
Wagner, Bryan, G.B.	30	1222	2	40.7	5	0	16	73	10	35.0
Davis, Greg, Phoe.	4	167	52	41.8	1	0	0	0	0	36.8
Johnson, Norm, Atl.	1	37	37	37.0	0	0	0	0	1	37.0

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Sixahema, Val, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6	Williams, Jamie, S.F.	1	0	1	0	6
Taylor, Kitrick, G.B.	1	0	1	0	6	Williams, Robert, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Thomas, Broderick, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6	Zornich, Chris, Chi.	1	0	0	1	6
Thompson, Anthony, Phoe.	1	1	0	0	6	Greene, Kevin, Rams	0	0	0	0	*2
Thompson, Reyna, Giants	1	0	0	1	6	Holt, Isaac, Dall.	0	0	0	0	*2
Tice, Mike, Minn.	1	0	1	0	6	Swann, Eric, Phoe.	0	0	0	0	*2
Tuggle, Jessie, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6						
White, Reggie, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6						

*Safety
 Team safety credited to Philadelphia

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NFC Statistics

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)
Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)
TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Philadelphia	516	2386	4.6	38	19
San Francisco	482	2313	4.8	43	22
Dallas	500	2121	4.2	168	20
N.Y. Giants	458	2077	4.5	163	20
Minnesota	497	2030	4.1	51	19
Chicago	427	1871	4.4	149	15
Washington	483	1727	3.6	33	10
Tampa Bay	438	1706	3.9	25	12
L.A. Rams	393	1659	4.2	71	12
Detroit	378	1644	4.3	155	9
New Orleans	454	1628	3.6	25	10
Green Bay	420	1555	3.7	44	7
Phoenix	395	1491	3.8	142	11
Atlanta	322	1270	3.9	32	3

1 or more yards	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Smith, Emmitt, Dal.	373	1713	4.6	168	18
Sanders, Barry, Det.	312	1352	4.3	155	9
Allen, Terry, Minn.	266	1201	4.5	51	13
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	300	1171	3.9	25	9
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	257	1141	4.4	163	14
Gary, Cleveland, Rams	279	1125	4.0	63	7
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	267	1070	4.0	38	8
Walters, Ricky, S.F.	206	1013	4.9	43	9
Byner, Earnest, Wash.	262	998	3.8	23	6
Johnson, Johnny, Phoe.	178	734	4.1	142	6
Workman, Vance, C.B.	159	631	4.0	44	2
Sherman, Hugh, Phil.	112	583	5.2	34	5
Anderson, Nea, Chi.	156	582	3.7	149	5
Dunbar, Vaughn, N.O.	54	565	3.7	25	3
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	87	549	6.3	30	5
Young, Steve, S.F.	76	537	7.1	139	4
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	104	501	4.8	37	3
Ervin, Rocky, Wash.	151	495	3.3	25	2
Hillard, Dalton, N.O.	115	445	3.9	22	3
Craig, Roger, Minn.	105	416	4.0	21	4
Hayward, Craig, N.O.	104	416	4.0	23	3
Musier, Brad, Chi.	98	414	4.2	35	3
Lewis, Darren, Chi.	90	392	4.2	33	4
Broussard, Steve, Atl.	84	363	4.3	27	1
Lee, Amp, S.F.	91	362	4.0	43	2
Smith, Tony, Atl.	87	329	3.8	32	2
Jones, Keith, Atl.	79	278	3.5	26	0
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	47	272	5.8	17	1
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	76	254	3.3	32	2
Bailey, Johnny, Phoe.	52	233	4.5	15	1
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	61	214	3.5	18	0
Lang, David, Rams	33	203	6.2	71	5
Favre, Brett, G.B.	47	198	4.2	19	1
Testaverde, Vinny, T.B.	36	197	5.5	18	2
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	55	194	3.5	18	1
Brown, Ivory, Lee, Phoe.	68	194	2.9	13	2
Garrison, Rich, Minn.	45	187	4.2	14	0
Byars, Keith, Phil.	41	176	4.3	23	1
Richards, Clayton, Dal.	49	176	3.6	15	1
Hosletter, Jeff, Giants	35	172	4.9	27	3
Meggett, Dave, Giants	32	167	5.2	30	0
Sydney, Harry, G.B.	51	63	3.2	19	2
Henderson, Keith, S.F.-Minn.	44	150	3.4	12	1
Chandler, Chris, Phoe.	36	149	4.1	18	1
Centers, Larry, Phoe.	37	139	3.8	28	0
Everitt, Irm, Rams	32	133	4.2	22	0
Ware, Andre, Det.	20	124	6.2	32	0
DePung, Robert, Rams	32	115	3.6	31	0
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	39	114	2.9	19	1
Green, Mark, Chi.	23	107	4.7	18	2
Aikman, Troy, Dal.	37	105	2.8	19	1
Hebert, Bobby, N.O.	32	95	3.0	18	0
Miller, Chris, Atl.	23	89	3.9	16	0
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	21	89	4.2	15	0
Peete, Rodney, Det.	21	83	4.0	12	0
McDowse, Anthony, T.B.	14	81	5.8	23	0
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	6	70	11.7	33	0
Morgan, Anthony, Chi.	3	68	22.7	35	0
Carter, Anthony, Minn.	16	66	4.1	14	1
Thompson, Anthony, Phoe. Rams	19	65	3.4	12	1



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Information Center

Wilson Wade All.	15	62	4.1	12	0
Johnston, Daryl Dall.	17	61	3.6	14	0
Rice, Jerry S.F.	9	58	6.4	26	1
Agas, Tommie, Dall.	16	54	3.4	10	0
Rypien, Mark, Wash.	36	50	1.4	11	2
Green, Robert, Wash.	8	46	5.8	23	0
Monk Art Wash.	6	45	7.5	16	0
Brooks, James, Clev.-T.B.	18	44	2.4	13	0
Jogan, Marc, S.F.	8	44	5.5	26	1
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	4	42	10.5	21	0
Stradford, Troy Rams-Del.	12	41	3.4	11	0
Pritchard, M. Ke, Atl.	5	37	7.4	22	0
Graham Kent Giants	6	36	6.0	15	0
Kramer Erik, Del.	12	34	2.8	11	0
Majkowski, Don G.B.	8	33	4.1	8	0
Anderson Ott's Giants	10	31	3.1	6	0
Montana, Joe, S.F.	3	28	9.3	16	0
Johnson, Joe, Minn.	4	26	6.5	9	0
Jennings, Stanford, T.B.	5	25	5.0	10	0
Bono, Steve, S.F.	15	23	1.5	19	0
Highsmith, Alonzo, T.B.	8	23	2.9	5	0
McMahon J'm Phil	6	23	3.8	11	0
Proehl, Ricky Phoe	3	23	7.7	10	0
Tilson, Ed Del	4	22	5.5	10	0
McGee, Buford, G.B.	8	19	2.4	4	0
Clark, Gary Wash.	2	18	9.0	12	0
Simms, Phil Giants	6	17	2.8	7	0
Carler, Chris Minn.	5	15	3.0	6	0
Harper, Arvin, Dall.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Toliver, Billy Joe, Atl.	4	15	3.8	15	0
Brooks, Robert G.B.	2	14	7.0	8	0
Howard, Desmond Wash.	3	14	4.7	7	0
Turner, Vernon Rams	2	14	7.0	9	0
Martin, Kevin, Dall.	2	13	6.5	8	0
Tulman, Lewis, Giants	6	13	2.2	8	0
Solomon, Jesse, Atl.	2	12	6.0	12	0
McHabb, Dexter, G.B.	2	11	5.5	8	0
Rosenbach, Timm, Phoe.	9	11	1.2	10	0
Harris, Corey G.B.	2	10	5.0	7	0
Taylor, John S.F.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Carler, Dexter S.F.	4	9	2.3	6	0
Sharpe, Sterling G.B.	4	8	2.0	14	0
Stryzinski, Dan, T.B.	1	7	7.0	7	0
Nelson, Darin, Minn.	10	6	0.5	9	0
Hill, Randall Phoe.	1	4	4.0	4	0
DeBerg, Steve T.B.	3	3	1.0	4	0
Gentry, Dennis, Chi.	5	2	0.4	3	0
Sikahema, Vai Phil	2	2	1.0	1	0
Willis, Peter Tom Chi.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Goodburn, Kelly Wash.	2	1	0.5	5	0
Jones, Hassan Minn.	1	1	1.0	1	0

Touchdown

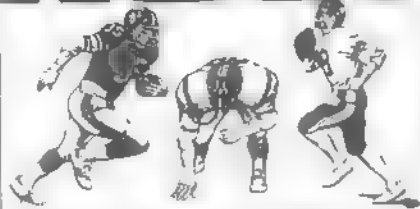
RECORDS

Receptions: 108, Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay (1992)
Yards: 1,570, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)
TDs: 22, Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)

3 or more receptions	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	108	1461	13.5	176	13
Rison, Andre All.	93	1119	12.0	171	11
Rice, Jerry S.F.	84	1201	14.3	180	10
Ivins, Michael, Dall.	78	1396	17.9	167	7
Pritchard, M. Ke, Atl.	77	827	10.7	138	5
Perrin, Brett, Del.	69	810	11.7	140	4
Martin, Eric, N.O.	68	1041	15.3	152	5
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	68	630	9.3	34	6
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	67	1083	16.2	171	6
Clark, Gary Wash.	64	912	14.3	47	5
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	60	776	12.9	41	1
Proehl, Ricky Phoe	60	744	12.4	163	3
Hill, Drew Atl.	60	623	10.4	43	3
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	59	335	5.7	126	1
Hill, Randall, Phoe.	58	861	14.8	49	3
Carrier, Mark, T.B.	56	692	12.4	40	4
Byars, Keith, Phil.	56	681	9.0	48	2
Harris, Jackie G.B.	55	595	10.8	40	2
Davis, Wendell, Chi.	54	734	13.6	40	2
Carler, Chris Minn.	53	681	12.8	44	6
Gary, Cleveland, Rams.	52	293	5.6	22	3
Moore, Herman Del.	51	966	18.9	177	4
Sanders, Ricky Wash.	51	707	13.9	162	3

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Centers, Larry, Phoe	50	417	8.3	26	2
McCallrey Ed, Giants	49	610	12.4	44	5
Aven, Terry Minn	49	478	9.8	136	2
Sydney, Harry, G.B	49	384	7.8	20	1
Haynes, Michael, Atl	48	808	16.8	189	10
Hilard, Dalton N.O	48	465	9.7	41	4
Ellard, Henry, Rams	47	727	15.5	133	3
Workman, Vince, G.B	47	290	6.2	21	0
Waddle, Tom, Chi	46	674	14.7	168	4
Monk, Art, Wash	46	644	14.0	49	3
Jones, Brant, S.F	45	628	14.0	43	4
Raliman, Tom, S.F	44	343	7.8	27	4
Walters, Ricky S.F	43	405	9.4	35	2
Williams, Calvin, Phi	42	538	14.2	149	7
Anderson, Neal, Chi	42	399	9.5	130	6
Carlier Anthony Minn	41	580	14.1	54	2
Hair, Ron T.B.	39	351	9.0	32	4
Byner Earnest, Wash	39	338	8.1	29	1
Anderson Willie, Rams	38	657	17.3	51	7
Sherrard, Mike S.F	38	607	16.0	56	0
Jones, Ernie, Phoe	38	554	14.7	72	4
Walker Herschel Phi	38	278	7.3	41	2
Meggett Dave Giants	38	229	6.0	24	2
Harper, Alvin, Dal	35	562	16	52	4
Musler, Brad, Chi	34	389	11.4	144	2
Price, Jim, Rams	34	324	9.5	25	2
Anderson Gary T.B	34	284	8.4	34	0
Green, Willie Del	33	586	17.8	73	5
Bailey Johnny Phoe	33	331	10.1	34	1
Martin, Kevin, Dal	32	359	12	27	3
Ervin, Ricky Wash	32	252	7.9	19	0
Johnston, Dary Dal	32	244	7.8	18	2
Early Quinn, N.O	30	566	18.9	159	5
Chadwick, Jeff, Rams	29	362	12.5	127	3
Sanders Barry Del	29	225	7.8	48	1
Jordan, Steve, Minn	28	394	14.1	60	2
Hampton, Rodney Giants	28	215	7	31	0
Ingram, Mark, Giants	27	408	5.1	34	1
Cross, Howard, Giants	27	357	13.2	29	2
Caaway Chris, Giants	27	335	12.4	28	2
McDowell Anthony T.B	27	258	9.6	15	2
Taylor John, S.F	25	428	7.1	154	3
Small, Torrance, N.O	23	278	12.1	33	3
Jennings, Keith Chi	23	264	11.4	23	1
Orr Terry Wash	22	356	16.2	58	3
Jones, Hassan Minn	22	308	4.0	43	4
Craig, Roger Minn	22	64	7.5	22	0
Johnson, Joe Minn	21	211	1	37	1
Cobb, Reggie, T.B	21	56	7.4	27	0
Hawkins, Courtney T.B	20	336	16.8	49	2
Carlier Pat, Rams	20	232	1.6	25	3
Lee, Amp S.F	20	102	5.1	7	2
Heyward, Craig N.O	19	159	8.4	21	0
Carroll Wesley N.O	18	297	16.2	172	2
Lang, David Rams	18	283	15.7	167	1
Cox, Aaron Rams	8	261	14.5	26	0
Sherman Heath Phil	8	219	12.2	175	1
Lewis Darren, Chi	8	175	9.7	30	0
Delpino Robert Rams	18	139	7.7	12	1
Baker Stephen, Giants	17	333	19.1	46	2
Beach Sanjay, G.B	17	122	7.2	20	1
Drewrey Willie T.B	6	23	14.8	32	2
Farr Mike Del	15	115	7.7	14	0
Morgan Anthony Chi	14	323	23.1	183	2
Edwards, Anthony Phoe	14	147	10.5	125	1
Jones, Tony, Atl	14	138	9.9	24	1
Johnson Johnny Phoe	14	103	7.4	26	0
Lewis, Ronald G.B	13	152	11.7	27	0
Sikahema, Var, Phil	13	142	0.9	22	0
Thompson, Darrell G.B	13	129	9.9	43	1
Bennett Edgar, G.B	13	33	2	22	0
Roche Butch Phoe	13	64	4.9	2	0
Brenner, Hobby N.O	2	61	3.4	23	1
Brooks, Robert G.B	12	26	0.5	18	0
Gentry Dennis Chi	12	114	9.5	18	0
Jones, Keith Atl	12	94	7.8	15	0
Broussard, Steve Atl	11	96	8.7	24	1
Bunch Jarrod, Giants	1	50	4.5	13	1
Turner Odessa, S.F	9	200	22.2	57	2
Wainright, Frank, N.O	9	143	5.9	29	0
Matthews, Aubrey Del	9	137	15.2	24	0
Jennings, Stanford, T.B	9	69	7.7	20	1
Dunbar Vaughn, N.O	9	62	6.4	3	0
Campbell, Jeff Del	8	155	19.4	178	0

Green, Roy Phil	8	105	13.1	21	0
Beach, Pat Phil	8	75	9.4	16	2
Armstrong Tyl, T.B	7	138	19.7	181	1
Green, Mark Chi	7	85	12.1	43	0
Williams Jamie S.F	7	76	10.9	21	1
Brown Ivory Joe, Phoe	7	54	7.7	18	0
Middleton Ron Wash	7	50	7.1	16	0
Reed, Jake, Minn	6	142	23.7	51	0
McGee, Buford G.B	6	60	10.0	15	0
Harry Emile, K.C.-Rams	6	58	9.7	13	0
Thomas, George Atl	6	54	9.0	18	0
Johnson Jimmy, Del	6	34	5.7	9	0
Reeves, Walter Phoe	6	28	4.7	12	0
Tice, Mike, Minn	5	65	13.0	134	1
Henderson Keith S.F.-Minn	5	64	12.8	23	0
Wright Eric, Chi	5	56	11.2	24	0
Blackwell Kelly Chi	5	54	10.8	18	0
Turner Floyd N.O	5	43	8.6	18	0
Turner Vernon Rams	5	42	8.4	16	0
Hughsmith Alonzo T.B	5	28	5.6	11	0
Thompson, Anthony Rams	5	11	2.2	7	0
McNea Travis, Rams	4	79	19.6	38	0
Barrett Reggie Del	4	87	16.8	24	1
Novoselsky Brent Minn	4	63	15.8	34	0
Morris, Ron Chi	4	44	11.0	26	0
Brown, Derek Giants	4	31	7.8	9	0
West Ed, G.B	4	30	7.5	10	0
Phelps, Jason Atl	4	26	6.5	8	1
Warren Don Wash	4	25	6.3	11	0
Stowers, Tommie N.O	4	23	5.8	8	0
Sanders Deon Atl	3	45	15.0	137	1
Smith Joey Giants	3	45	15.0	22	0
Dixie Floyd Phil	3	36	12.0	19	0
Roberts, Alfredo Del	3	36	12.0	18	0
Michelin Brian, Wash	3	30	10.0	17	0
Hinnant, Mike Del	3	28	9.3	13	0
Milling James Atl	3	25	8.3	15	0
Newman Pat N.O	3	21	7.0	8	0
Howard Desmond, Wash	3	20	6.7	8	0
Agee, Tommie, Dal	3	18	6.0	8	0
Blount Eric, Phoe	3	18	6.0	18	0
Richards, Curvin, Dal	3	8	2.7	8	0

RECORDS

Number 14, Dick Lane, Los Angeles (1952)

Yards 301, Don Doll, Detroit (1949)

Longest return: 102 yards,

Bob Smith, Detroit (1949)

Erich Barnes, New York (1961)

TDs: 3, Dick Lynch, New York (1963)

3, Herb Adderley, Green Bay (1965)

3, Monte Jackson, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Rod Perry, Los Angeles (1976)

3, Ronnie Lott, San Francisco (1981)

3, Wayne Maddix, Tampa Bay (1990)

3, Robert Massey, Phoenix (1992)

2 or more	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
McMillan Audray Minn	8	157	19.6	151	2
Woolford, Donnell, Chi	7	87	9.6	32	0
Edwards, Brad, Wash	5	157	26.2	153	1
Cook, Tom, N.O	5	90	15.0	148	1
Massey Robert, Phoe	5	147	29.4	146	3
Scott Todd Minn	5	79	15.8	135	1
Glen Vencie, Minn	5	65	13.0	39	0
Griffin, Don S.F	5	4	0.8	2	0
Joyner Seth Phil	4	88	22.0	143	2
Evans, Byron Phil	4	76	19.0	43	0
Jackson Greg, Giants	4	71	17.8	36	0
White, William Del	4	54	13.5	28	0
Ceci Chuck G.B	4	52	13.0	29	0
Crockell Ray Del	4	50	12.5	35	0
Allen Eric, Phil	4	49	12.3	36	0
Henley Darrell Rams	4	41	10.3	25	0
Scott Kevin Del	4	35	8.8	26	0
Jenkins Me Del	4	34	8.5	14	0
Newman Anthony Rams	4	33	8.3	17	0
Sanders, Deon Atl	3	105	35.0	55	0
Lyght Todd, Rams	3	80	26.7	39	0
Bailey Robert Rams	3	61	20.3	37	1
Mayhew Martin, Wash	3	58	19.3	33	0
Blades, Bennie Del	3	56	18.7	34	0

Davis Eric, S.F	3	52	17.3	37	0
Gouveia Kurt Wash	3	43	14.3	28	0
Johnson A.J. Wash	3	38	12.7	29	0
Zordich, Mike Phoe	3	37	12.3	23	0
Buckley Terre G.B	3	33	11.0	133	1
Washington, James, Dal	3	31	10.3	16	0
Hoand Johnny G.B	3	27	9.0	22	0
Furlington Darre T.B	3	25	8.3	16	0
Williams Aeneas, Phoe	3	25	8.3	23	0
Parker Anthony Minn	3	23	7.7	23	0
Booty John, Phil	3	22	7.3	22	0
Gant, Kenneth Dal	3	19	6.3	11	0
Hopkins Wes, Phil	3	6	2.0	4	0
Carlier Marty T.B	3	1	0.3	1	0
Alkins Gene N.O	3	0	0.0	0	0
Mack, Milton, T.B	3	0	0.0	0	0
Portland Darryl T.B	2	98	49.5	75	0
Del Rio Jack Minn	2	92	46.0	184	1
Thomas Broderick T.B	2	81	40.5	155	1
Jones Reggie, N.O	2	71	35.5	171	1
Clark Vinnie G.B	2	70	35.0	43	0
Thompson Reyna, Giants	2	69	34.5	169	1
Buck Vince, N.O	2	51	25.5	134	1
White Leon, Rams	2	49	24.5	40	0
Stinson Lemuel Chi	2	46	23.0	46	0
Johnson, Pepper Giants	2	42	21.0	38	0
Michell Roland G.B	2	40	20.0	35	0
Gayle Shaun, Chi	2	39	19.5	30	0
McDonald Tim Phoe	2	35	17.5	20	0
Hail Dana S.F	2	34	17.0	34	0
Everett, Thomas, Dal	2	28	14.0	17	0
Davis Dexter Phoe	2	27	13.5	27	0
White, Sheldon, Del	2	26	13.0	20	0
King, Joe T.B	2	24	12.0	24	0
Lee Carl, Minn	2	20	10.0	20	0
Marshall Wilber Wash	2	20	10.0	120	1
Taylor Keith N.O	2	20	10.0	20	0
Mays, AVOID Wash	2	18	9.0	13	0
Pickens, Bruce, Atl	2	16	8.0	16	0
Horton, Ray, Dal	2	15	7.5	115	1
Maxie, Brett N.O	2	12	6.0	8	0
Holmes, Isaac Dal	2	11	5.5	6	0
Melzer Corey Giants	2	10	5.0	10	0
Smith Kevin, Dal	2	10	5.0	7	0
Hanks, Merton S.F	2	5	2.5	4	0
Thomas, William, Phi	2	4	2.0	4	0
Williams, Jimmy T.B	2	4	2.0	3	0
Case, Scott Atl	2	0	0.0	0	0
Reynolds, Ricky T.B	2	0	0.0	0	0

FOOTBALL

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reeca, Tampa Bay (1979)

Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)

Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Bill Lefebvre, Cincinnati (1933)

Charlie West, Minnesota (1964)

Dennis Morgan, Dallas (1974)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Bailey Johnny Phoe	20	8	263	13.2	68	0
Martin Kevin Dal	42	18	532	12.7	179	2
Sikahema, Va., Phil	40	10	503	12.6	167	1
Parker Anthony Minn	33	17	336	10.2	42	0
Buckley Terre G.B	21	5	211	10.0	158	1
Michelin Brian Wash	29	9	271	9.3	184	1
Meggett Dave Giants	27	11	240	8.9	39	0
Grant Alan S.F	29	10	249	8.6	46	0
Turner Vernon Rams	28	6	207	7.4	23	0
Newman Pat N.O	23	10	158	6.9	18	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Drewley Willie T.B.	7	6	62	8.9	17	0
Sydney Jeff Phil.	7	5	52	7.4	17	0

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NFC Statistics

Howard Desmond Wash	6	3	84	14.0	155	1
Griffin Don SF	6	2	69	11.5	29	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	6	1	45	7.5	13	0
Harry, Emile, Rams	6	4	34	5.7	11	0
Lipps, Louis, N.O.	5	1	22	4.4	16	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	4	1	103	25.8	161	2
Lewis, Ronald, S.F.	4	0	23	5.8	9	0
Morgan, Anthony, Chi	3	1	21	7.0	13	0
Campbell, Jeff, Det	3	0	15	5.0	9	0
Turner Floyd, N.O.	3	0	10	3.3	5	0
Buck, Vince, N.O.	2	4	4	2.0	3	0

BACKOFF MAYOR

RECORDS

Numbers: 60, Drew Hill, Los Angeles (1981)

Yards: 1,345, Buster Rhymes, Minnesota (1985)

Longest: 106 yards,

Al Carmichael, Green Bay (1956)

Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)

4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sanders, Deon, Atl	40	1067	26.7	199	2
Bailey Johnny, Phoe	28	690	24.6	63	0
Gray Mel, Det	142	1006	24.0	189	1
Meggett, Dave, Giants	20	455	22.8	192	1
Lewis, Darren, Chi	23	511	22.2	197	1
Logan, Marc, S.F.	22	478	21.7	82	0
Nelson, Darnin, Minn	29	626	21.6	53	0
McTee Brian, Wash	23	492	21.4	47	0
Howard Desmond, Wash	22	462	21.0	42	0
Martin, Kelvin, Dall	24	503	21.0	59	0
Harris, Corey, Hou-G.B.	33	691	20.9	50	0
Sikahema Vai, Phil	26	528	20.3	41	0
Turner Vernon, Rams	29	569	19.6	35	0
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	29	564	19.4	39	0
Smith, Joey, Giants	30	564	18.8	35	0

NON-QUALIFIERS 2 or more!

McAfee Fred, N.O.	19	393	20.7	38	0
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	18	338	18.8	30	0
Snyder Jeff, Phil	17	368	21.6	45	0
Gentry Dennis, Chi	16	330	20.6	66	0
Jee, Amp, S.F.	14	276	19.7	33	0
Lang, David, Rams	13	226	17.5	26	0
Blount Eric, Phoe	11	251	22.8	52	0
Green Mark, Chi	11	224	20.4	29	0
Dunbar Vaughn, N.O.	10	187	18.7	27	0
Pegram, Eric, Atl	9	161	17.9	42	0
Hawkins Courtney, T.B.	9	118	13.1	18	0
Edwards Anthony, Phoe	8	143	17.9	24	0
Smith, Tony, Atl	7	172	24.6	60	0
Hillard, Da Lion, N.O.	7	130	18.6	48	0
Stradford, Troy, Rams-Det	7	94	13.4	21	0
Jones, Keith, Atl	6	114	19.0	29	0
Deipino, Robert, Rams	6	83	13.8	18	0
Henderson, Keith, Minn	5	111	22.2	29	0
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	5	104	20.8	33	0
Johnson, Joe, Minn	5	79	15.8	25	0
Morgan, Anthony, Chi	4	71	17.8	30	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	4	63	15.8	19	0
Campbell, Jeff, Det	4	61	15.3	21	0
Perriman, Brett, Det	4	59	14.8	22	0
Thompson, Anthony, Rams	4	34	8.5	14	0
Thomas, George, T.B.	3	72	24.0	37	0
Grant, Alan, S.F.	3	70	23.3	47	0
Holmes, Clayton, Dall	3	70	23.3	28	0
Walker, Herscher, Phil	3	69	23.0	34	0
Newman Pat, N.O.	3	62	20.7	29	0
Brooks, James, T.B.	3	49	16.3	24	0
Jurkovic, John, G.B.	3	39	13.0	14	0
Scott, Kevin, Det	3	5	1.7	3	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	2	55	27.5	32	0
Parker, Anthony, Minn	2	30	15.0	15	0
Calloway, Chris, Giants	2	29	14.5	17	0
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	2	27	13.5	17	0
West, Ronnie, Minn	2	27	13.5	27	0
Ryan, Tim, T.B.	2	24	12.0	13	0
Sparks, Phil, Phil	2	23	11.5	14	0
Mayfield, Corey, T.B.	2	22	11.0	15	0
Smith, Lance, Phoe	2	16	8.0	13	0
Stephen, Scott, Rams	2	12	6.0	7	0

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STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
Touchdowns: 23, O. J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
Field Goals: 34, Jim Turner, New York (1968)
34, Nick Lowery, Kansas City (1990)
Extra points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

SCORING

	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Buffalo	44	18	23	3	43	44	24	30	1	381
Houston	41	10	27	4	41	41	21	27	1	352
Kansas City	40	14	15	11	39	40	23	25	0	348
Miami	36	9	24	3	34	36	30	37	0	340
San Diego	36	18	16	2	35	36	26	32	3	335
Pittsburgh	31	13	15	3	29	31	28	36	0	299
Cincinnati	31	11	16	4	31	31	19	28	0	274
Cleveland	30	7	18	5	29	30	21	29	0	272
Denver	29	11	16	2	28	29	20	25	0	262
L.A. Raiders	29	7	20	2	28	29	15	26	1	249
N.Y. Jets	23	8	12	3	23	23	19	30	1	220
Indianapolis	24	8	13	3	24	24	16	29	0	216
New England	25	6	13	6	22	25	11	17	0	205
Seattle	14	4	9	1	14	14	14	22	0	140

Allen, Marcus, Raiders	3	2	1	0	18
Banks, Fred, Mia	3	0	3	0	18
Beil, Nick, Raiders	3	3	0	0	18
Bienemy, Eric, S.D.	3	3	0	0	18
Burden, J., K.C.	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Dale, K.C.	3	0	0	3	18
Cash, Kerry, Ind.	3	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, Mia	3	0	3	0	18
Coates, Ben, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Cooper, Adrian, Pit.	3	0	3	0	18
Davis, Willie, K.C.	3	0	3	0	18
Dickerson, Eric, Raiders	3	2	1	0	18
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	3	0	3	0	18
Kane, Tommy, Sea.	3	0	3	0	18
McGee, Tim, Cin	3	0	3	0	18
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	3	0	3	0	18
Muncy, Charles, K.C.	3	0	0	3	18
Query, Jeff, Cin	3	0	3	0	18
Reed, Andre, Buf.	3	0	3	0	18
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	3	0	3	0	18
Warren, Chris, Sea.	3	3	0	0	18
Williams, John L., Sea.	3	1	2	0	18
Bavaro, Mark, Cle.	2	0	2	0	12
Beebe, Don, Buf.	2	0	2	0	12
Brandon, David, Cle.	2	0	0	2	12

RECEIVING

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia	34	36	30	37	124
Christie, Steve, Buf.	43	44	24	30	115
Anderson, Gary, Pit.	29	31	28	36	113
Carney, John, S.D.	35	35	26	32	113
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	39	39	22	24	105
Del Greco, Al, Hou.	41	41	21	27	104
Stover, Matt, Cle.	29	30	21	29	92
Breech, Jim, Cin	31	31	19	27	88
Treadwell, David, Den.	28	28	20	24	88
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders	28	28	15	26	73
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	24	24	16	29	72
Blanchard, Cary, Jets	17	17	16	22	65
Kasay, John, Sea.	14	14	14	22	56
Baumann, Charlie, N.E.	22	24	11	17	55
Stavrovsky, Jason, Jets	6	6	3	8	15
Daluso, Brad, Den.	0	0	0	1	0
Johnson, Lee, Cin	0	0	0	1	0

NON-EXPERIENCED

	TD	TOR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	12	9	3	0	72
Foster, Barry, Pit.	11	11	0	0	66
Givins, Earnest, Hou.	10	0	10	0	60
Culver, Rodney, Ind.	9	7	2	0	54
Jellfries, Haywood, Hou.	9	0	9	0	54
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	8	7	1	0	48
Jackson, Mark, Den.	8	0	8	0	48
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	8	0	7	1	48
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	8	7	1	0	48
Brown, Tim, Raiders	7	0	7	0	42
Duper, Mark, Mia.	7	0	7	0	42
Higgs, Mark, Mia.	7	7	0	0	42
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	7	0	7	0	42
Melcauf, Eric, Cle.	7	1	5	1	42
Baxter, Brad, Jets	6	6	0	0	36
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	6	6	0	0	36
Loflon, James, Buf.	6	0	6	0	36
Mack, Kevin, Cle.	6	6	0	0	36
Melzebars, Pete, Buf.	6	0	6	0	36
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	6	6	0	0	36
Jackson, Keith, Mia	5	0	5	0	30
Ba.I. Eric, Cin	4	2	2	0	24
Barnett, Tim, K.C.	4	0	4	0	24



Bernstein, Rod, S.D.	4	4	0	0	24
Butts, Marion, S.D.	4	4	0	0	24
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	4	0	4	0	24
Gault, Willie, Raiders	4	0	4	0	24
Hammon, Ronnie, S.D.	4	3	1	0	24
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	4	4	0	0	24
Lewis, Greg, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	4	0	4	0	24
Math's, Terence, Jets	4	1	3	0	24
Moore, Rob, Jets	4	0	4	0	24
Price, Reggie, Den.	4	3	1	0	24
Slaughter, Webster, Hou.	4	0	4	0	24
Word, Barry, K.C.	4	4	0	0	24

Brown, Vincent, N.E.	2	0	0	2	12
Cash, Keith, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Cook, Mary, N.E.	2	0	2	0	12
Eway, John, Den.	2	2	0	0	12
Frederic, Mitch, Buf.	2	0	2	0	12
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	2	2	0	0	12
Green, Eric, Pit.	2	0	2	0	12
Green, Gaston, Den.	2	2	0	0	12
Green, Harold, Cin	2	2	0	0	12
Harris, Leona, d Hou.	2	0	2	0	12
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Cin	2	0	2	0	12
Horton, Ethan, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12

continued

Humphrey, Bobby, <i>Mia</i>	2	1	1	0	12
Jefferson, Shawn, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Vance, <i>Den</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Henry, <i>Buf</i>	2	0	0	2	12
Jordan, Tim, <i>Pil</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Krieg, Dave, <i>K.C.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Martin, Tony, <i>Mia</i>	2	0	2	0	12
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	2	1	1	0	12
Paine, Tony, <i>Mia</i>	2	1	1	0	12
Pickens, Carl, <i>Cin.</i>	2	0	1	1	12
Russell, Leonard, <i>N.E.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Sharpe, Shannon, <i>Den</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Stephens, John, <i>N.E.</i>	2	2	0	0	12
Thompson, Craig, <i>Cin.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Toon, Al, <i>Jets</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Turner, Kevin, <i>N.E.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Vaughn, Jon, <i>N.E.</i>	2	1	0	1	12
Verdin, Clarence, <i>Ind.</i>	2	0	0	2	12
Walker, Derrick, <i>S.D.</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Wright, Alexander, <i>Raiders</i>	2	0	2	0	12
Anderson, Eddie, <i>Raiders</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Arbuckle, Charles, <i>Ind.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Baly, Greg, <i>Mia</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Bentley, Ray, <i>Cin.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Brennan, Brian, <i>Cin.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Brim, Michael, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Brooks, Michael, <i>Den</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Brooks, Bill, <i>Ind.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Brown, Gary, <i>Hou.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Brown, J.B., <i>Mia</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Burkett, Chris, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Carlson, Cody, <i>Hou.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Carpenter, Rod, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Carrington, Darren, <i>S.D.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Chaffey, Pat, <i>Jets</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Chadwick, Ray, <i>Hou.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Clark, Louis, <i>Sea</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Davenport, Charles, <i>Pil</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Duncan, Curtis, <i>Hou.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Edmunds, Ferre, <i>Mia</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Emmert, Steve, <i>Ind.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Fina, John, <i>Buf</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Francis, James, <i>Cin.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Fuller, Wilam, <i>Hou.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Galbraith, Scott, <i>Cle</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Gash, Sam, <i>N.E.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
George, Jeff, <i>Ind.</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Glover, Andrew, <i>Raiders</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Goad, Tim, <i>N.E.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Graddy, Sam, <i>Raiders</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Graham, Jeff, <i>Pil</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Green, Paul, <i>Sea</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Griffin, Larry, <i>Pil</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Harper, Wayne, <i>Sea</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Henderson, Wymon, <i>Den</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Hester, Jessie, <i>Ind.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Hoar, Leroy, <i>Cle</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pil</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Houston, Bobby, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Vestee, <i>Mia</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Mike, <i>Cle</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Johnson, Reggie, <i>Den</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Jones, James, <i>Cle</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Junkin, Trey, <i>Sea</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Keay, Jim, <i>Buf</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Langhorne, Reggie, <i>Ind</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Lodish, Mike, <i>Buf</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Marshall, Arthur, <i>Den</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Marts, Lonnie, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
McDowell, Bubba, <i>Hou.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
McMurtry, Greg, <i>N.E.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Meads, Johnny, <i>Hou</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Mitchell, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Moon, Warren, <i>Hou</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Moore, Stevon, <i>Cle</i>	1	0	0	1	6
O'Donnell, Neil, <i>Pil</i>	1	1	0	0	6
Oliver, Lou, <i>S. Mia</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Patterson, Elvis, <i>Raiders</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Poo, David, <i>N.E.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Rogers, Tracy, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Ross, Kevin, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Schultz, Wilam, <i>Ind.</i>	1	0	1	0	6

RECORDS

Completions: 404, Warren Moon, Houston (1991)

Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS	LOST	RATING
Moon, Warren <i>Hou.</i>	346	224	64.7	2521	7.29	18	5.2	72	12	3.5	16	105	89.3			
Marino, Dan, <i>Mia.</i>	554	330	59.6	4116	7.43	24	4.3	162	16	2.9	28	173	85.1			
O'Donnell, Neil <i>Pil</i>	313	185	59.1	2283	7.29	13	4.2	51	9	2.9	27	208	83.6			
Kelly, Jim <i>Buf</i>	462	269	58.2	3457	7.48	23	5.0	165	19	4.1	20	145	81.2			
Carlson, Cody, <i>Hou.</i>	227	149	65.6	1710	7.53	9	4.0	65	11	4.8	15	90	81.2			
Krieg, Dave, <i>K.C.</i>	413	230	55.7	3115	7.54	15	3.6	177	12	2.9	48	323	79.9			
Humphries, Stan, <i>S.D.</i>	454	263	57.9	3356	7.39	16	3.5	167	18	4.0	28	218	76.4			
Elway, John, <i>Den.</i>	316	174	55.1	2242	7.09	10	3.2	180	17	5.4	36	272	65.7			
Schroeder, Jay, <i>Raiders</i>	253	123	48.6	1476	5.83	11	4.3	53	11	4.3	25	180	63.3			
George, Jeff <i>Ind.</i>	306	167	54.6	1963	6.42	7	2.3	157	16	4.9	27	188	61.5			
Esiason, Boomer <i>Cin.</i>	278	144	51.8	1407	5.05	11	4.0	38	15	5.4	19	150	57.0			
Nagle, Browning, <i>Jets</i>	387	192	49.6	2280	5.89	7	1.8	51	17	4.4	27	215	55.7			
Geibaugh, Stan <i>Sea</i>	255	121	47.5	1307	5.13	6	2.4	57	11	4.3	34	265	52.9			

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Philcox, Todd, <i>Cle</i>	27	13	48.1	217	8.04	3	11.1	169	1	3.7	1	6	97.3
Hollas, Donald, <i>Cin.</i>	58	35	60.3	335	5.78	2	3.4	124	0	0.0	8	45	87.9
Kosar, Bernie, <i>Cle</i>	155	103	66.5	1160	7.48	8	5.2	169	7	4.5	21	126	87.0
Herrmann, Mark, <i>Ind.</i>	24	15	62.5	177	7.38	1	4.2	27	1	4.2	1	5	81.4
Tomczak, Mike, <i>Cle</i>	211	120	56.9	1693	8.02	7	3.3	52	7	3.3	12	85	80.1
Evans, Vince, <i>Raiders</i>	53	29	54.7	372	7.02	4	7.5	50	3	5.7	3	26	78.5
Milten, Hugh, <i>N.E.</i>	203	124	61.1	1203	5.93	8	3.9	39	10	4.9	33	204	70.3
Hudson, Tom, <i>N.E.</i>	91	50	54.9	496	5.45	2	2.2	154	2	2.2	12	96	68.8
Trudeau, Jack, <i>Ind.</i>	181	105	58.0	1271	7.02	4	2.2	81	8	4.4	11	85	68.6
O'Brien, Ken, <i>Jets</i>	98	55	56.1	642	6.55	5	5.1	155	6	5.1	10	61	67.6
Kriegler, David, <i>Cin</i>	98	47	48.0	530	5.41	3	3.1	183	2	2.0	18	146	66.3
Brister, Bobby, <i>Cin.</i>	116	63	54.3	719	6.20	2	1.7	42	5	4.3	13	88	61.0
Zolak, Scott, <i>N.E.</i>	100	52	52.0	561	5.61	2	2.0	165	4	4.0	17	137	58.8
Marovich, Todd, <i>Raiders</i>	165	81	49.1	1102	6.68	5	3.0	168	9	5.5	20	154	58.2
Maddox, Tommy, <i>Den</i>	121	66	54.5	757	6.26	5	4.1	38	9	7.4	10	60	56.4
Tupa, Tom, <i>Ind.</i>	33	17	51.5	156	4.73	1	3.0	19	2	6.1	5	40	49.6
Stouffer, Kelly, <i>Sea</i>	190	92	48.4	900	4.74	3	1.6	33	9	4.7	26	222	47.7
Reich, Frank, <i>Buf.</i>	47	24	51.1	221	4.70	0	0.0	21	2	4.3	9	76	46.5
Gagliano, Bob, <i>S.D.</i>	42	19	45.2	258	6.14	0	0.0	55	3	7.1	5	50	35.6
Moore, Shawn, <i>Den</i>	34	17	50.0	232	6.82	0	0.0	40	3	8.8	6	50	35.4
Carlson, Jeff, <i>N.E.</i>	49	18	36.7	232	4.73	1	2.0	40	3	5.1	3	21	33.7
McGwire, Dan, <i>Sea</i>	30	17	56.7	116	3.87	0	0.0	20	3	10.0	7	58	25.8

RECORDS

Number: 105, Bob Scarpitto, Denver (1967)

Average: 46.9 yards, Greg Montgomery, Houston (1992)

Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TD	BLK	OPP RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Montgomery, Greg, <i>Hou.</i>	53	2487	66	46.9	9	2	31	255	14	37.3
Stark, Rohn, <i>Ind.</i>	83	3716	64	44.8	7	0	45	313	22	39.3
Tuten, Rick, <i>Sea</i>	108	4760	65	44.1	8	0	56	416	29	38.7
Barker, Bryan, <i>K.C.</i>	75	3245	65	43.3	13	1	35	300	16	35.3
Royals, Mark, <i>Pit</i>	73	3119	58	42.7	9	1	39	308	22	35.6
Kidd John, <i>S.D.</i>	68	2899	65	42.6	9	0	24	244	22	36.4
Gossett, Jeff, <i>Raiders</i>	77	3255	56	42.3	3	0	40	385	17	36.5
Mohr, Chris, <i>Buf</i>	60	2531	61	42.2	7	0	22	185	12	36.8
Johnson, Lee, <i>Cin.</i>	76	3196	64	42.1	9	0	32	284	15	35.9
Hansen, Brian, <i>Cle.</i>	74	3083	73	41.7	7	1	27	234	28	36.1
McCarthy Shawn, <i>N.E.</i>	103	4227	61	41.0	4	0	59	499	19	35.4
Aguiar Louie, <i>Jets</i>	73	2993	65	41.0	3	0	26	199	21	37.6

NON-QUALIFIERS

Horan, Mike, <i>Den</i>	37	1681	62	45.4	1	1	14	132	7	40.2
Rody, Reggie, <i>Mia</i>	35	1443	60	41.2	3	0	16	183	11	34.3
Parker, Daren, <i>Den</i>	12	491	61	40.9	1	0	7	88	1	31.9
Da Jiso, Brad, <i>Den</i>	10	467	67	46.7	1	0	6	40	3	40.7
St. Iliyan, Kent, <i>K.C.</i>	6	247	59	41.2	0	0	4	18	2	38.2
Lowery, Nick, <i>K.C.</i>	4	141	39	35.3	0	0	1	10	0	32.8

Leader based on average, minimum 40 punts

Singleton, Chris, <i>N.E.</i>	1	0	0	1	5	Williams, Harvey, <i>K.C.</i>	1	1	0	0	5
Smith, Neil, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	0	1	6	Wolfe, Ron, <i>Cle.</i>	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Steve, <i>Raiders</i>	1	0	1	0	6	Woodson, Rod, <i>Pil.</i>	1	0	0	1	6
Stegall, M II, <i>Cin.</i>	1	0	1	0	6	Grossman, Burl, <i>S.D.</i>	0	0	0	0	*4
Thomas, Derrick, <i>K.C.</i>	1	0	0	1	6	Hare, Chris, <i>Buf.</i>	0	0	0	0	2
Thompson, Leroy, <i>Pil.</i>	1	1	0	0	6	Harrison, Nolan, <i>Raiders</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Tilman, Cedric, <i>Den.</i>	1	0	1	0	6	Mims, Chris, <i>S.D.</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Timpson, Michael, <i>N.E.</i>	1	0	1	0	6	Washington, Marvin, <i>Jets</i>	0	0	0	0	*2
Vinson, Ferdinand, <i>Cin.</i>	1	0	0	1	6						
Washington, Brian, <i>Jets</i>	1	0	0	1	6						

“Safety”
Team safety credited to Houston

continued

*Safety
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AFC Statistics

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 390, Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (1992)
Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)
19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Buffalo	549	2436	4.4	64	18
Pittsburgh	518	2156	4.2	69	13
Cincinnati	454	1976	4.4	53	11
San Diego	489	1875	3.8	33	18
L.A. Raiders	434	1794	4.1	166	7
N.Y. Jets	424	1752	4.1	32	8
Houston	353	1626	4.6	44	10
Cleveland	451	1607	3.6	37	7
Seattle	402	1596	4.0	52	4
New England	419	1550	3.7	36	6
Kansas City	446	1532	3.4	144	14
Miami	407	1525	3.7	23	9
Denver	403	1500	3.7	167	11
Indianapolis	379	1102	2.9	138	8

1 or more yards

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Foster Barry Pil.	390	1690	4.3	69	11
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	312	1487	4.8	44	9
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	265	1226	4.6	44	7
Green, Harold, Cin.	265	1170	4.4	53	2
Warren, Chris, Sea.	223	1017	4.6	52	3
Higgs, Mark, Mia.	256	915	3.6	23	7
Bulls, Marion, S.D.	218	809	3.7	22	4
Dickerson, Eric, Raiders	187	729	3.9	140	2
Baxter Brad, Jets	152	698	4.6	30	6
Green, Gaston, Den.	161	648	4.0	167	2
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	139	613	4.4	164	6
Word, Barry, K.C.	163	607	3.7	144	4
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	178	592	3.3	19	0
Mack, Kevin, Cle.	169	543	3.2	37	6
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	112	500	4.5	135	7
Bernst, Ned, S.D.	108	499	4.7	125	4
Humphrey Bobby, Mia.	102	471	4.6	21	1
Vaughn, Jon, N.E.	113	451	4.0	36	1
Okoye, Christian, K.C.	144	448	3.1	22	6
Thomas, Blair, Jets	97	440	4.5	19	0
Russer, Leonard, N.E.	123	390	3.2	23	2
Varde, Tommy, Cle.	99	369	3.7	35	0
Bel, Nick, Raiders	81	366	4.5	166	3
Williams, John, Sea.	114	339	3.0	14	1
Culver, Rodney, Ind.	121	321	2.7	136	7
Allen, Marcus, Raiders	67	301	4.5	21	2
Melton, Eric, Cle.	73	301	4.1	31	1
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	74	282	3.8	48	3
Stephens, John, N.E.	75	277	3.7	19	2
Lewis, Greg, Den.	73	268	3.7	22	4
Bienemy, Eric, S.D.	74	264	3.6	21	3
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	78	262	3.4	11	1
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	54	236	4.4	37	0
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	55	235	4.3	33	3
Chaffey Pat, Jets	27	185	6.9	32	1
McNeil, Freeman, Jets	43	170	4.0	18	0
Gardner, Carlwell, Buf.	40	166	4.2	19	2
Lockwood, Scott, N.E.	35	162	4.6	23	0
Schroeder, Jay, Raiders	28	160	5.7	19	0
Thompson, Leroy, Pil.	35	157	4.5	25	1
Hoge, Merril, Pil.	41	150	3.7	15	0
Moore, Warren, Hou.	27	147	5.4	23	1
Clark, Ken, Ind.	40	134	3.4	13	0
Smith, Steve, Raiders	44	129	2.9	15	0
McNair, Todd, K.C.	21	124	5.9	30	1
Stone, Dwight, Pil.	12	118	9.8	30	0
Holts, Donald, Cin.	20	109	5.5	24	0
M. Ian, Hugh, N.E.	17	106	6.4	26	0
Elway, John, Den.	34	94	2.8	9	2
Smith, Sammie, Den.	23	94	4.1	15	0
Brown, Gary, Hou.	19	87	4.6	26	1
Evans, Vince, Raiders	11	79	7.2	16	0
Gelbaugh, Stan, Sea.	16	79	4.9	22	0
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	28	79	2.8	25	4
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	27	77	2.9	13	1
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	7	75	10.7	44	0
Kneg, Dave, K.C.	37	74	2.0	17	2
Mayes, Rueben, Sea.	28	74	2.6	14	0
Zolak, Scott, N.E.	18	71	3.9	19	0
Hector, Johnny, Jets	24	67	2.8	14	0

Esason, Boomer, Cin.	21	66	3.1	15	0
Marino, Dan, Mia.	20	66	3.3	12	0
Reed, Andre, Buf.	8	65	8.1	24	0
Nagie, Browning, Jets	24	57	2.4	20	0
Marshall, Arthur, Den.	11	56	5.1	16	0
Bal, Eric, Cin.	16	55	3.4	17	2
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	31	63	1.7	10	1
Kingler, David, Cin.	11	63	4.8	12	0
Brown, A.B., Jets	24	42	1.8	9	0
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	10	40	4.0	11	0
Fu, Eddie, Buf.	8	39	6.5	15	0
Moore, Shawn, Den.	8	39	4.9	11	0
Tomczak, Mike, Cle.	24	39	1.6	16	0
Farabee, Bernie, Mia.	6	38	6.3	20	0
Stouffer, Kelly, Sea.	9	37	4.1	11	0
Carlson, Jeff, N.E.	11	32	2.9	7	0
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	10	31	3.1	11	0
Mannovich, Todd, Raiders	9	30	3.3	11	0
Graham, Scottie, Jets	14	29	2.1	6	0
Harry, Ernie, K.C.	1	27	27.0	27	0
George, Jeff, Ind.	14	26	1.9	13	1
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	3	26	8.7	19	0
Mattis, Terance, Jets	3	25	8.3	110	1
Miles, Ostel, Cin.	8	22	2.8	9	0
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	1	21	21.0	21	0
Moore, Rob, Jets	1	21	21.0	21	0
Maddox, Tommy, Den.	9	20	2.2	11	0
Mil, S., Em, P.H.	1	20	20.0	20	0
Staugler, Webster, Hou.	3	20	6.7	10	0
Briester, Bobby, Pil.	10	16	1.6	8	0
Tillman, Jay, Cle.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Brooks, Bl, Ind.	2	14	7.0	8	0
McGwire, Dan, Sea.	3	13	4.3	11	0
Kosar, Bernie, Cle.	5	12	2.4	8	0
Hodson, Tom, N.E.	5	11	2.2	5	0
Mohr, Chris, Buf.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Paige, Tony, Mia.	7	11	1.6	6	1
Gainer, Derrick, Raiders	2	10	5.0	6	0
McNeill, Scott, Mia.	8	10	1.3	8	0
Caney, Sheldon, Jets	4	9	2.3	4	0
Carthon, Maurice, Ind.	4	9	2.3	5	0
Craver, Aaron, Mia.	3	9	3.0	8	0
Tasker, Steve, Buf.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Tupa, Tom, Ind.	3	9	3.0	10	0
Edwards, Al, Buf.	1	8	8.0	8	0
Harris, Leonard, Hou.	1	8	8.0	8	0
O'Brien, Ken, Jets	8	8	1.0	7	0
Gash, Sam, N.E.	5	7	1.4	4	1
Johnson, Reggie, Den.	2	7	3.5	8	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Saxon, James, Mia.	4	7	1.8	4	0
Thomas, Doug, Sea.	3	7	2.3	8	0
Fryar, Irving, N.E.	1	6	6.0	8	0
Gau, Willie, Raiders	1	6	6.0	6	0
Trudeau, Jack, Ind.	13	6	0.5	5	0
Blades, Brian, Sea.	1	5	5.0	5	0
O'Donnell, Neil, Pil.	27	5	0.2	9	1
McMurtry, Greg, N.E.	2	3	1.5	2	0
Carpenter, Rob, Jets	1	2	2.0	2	0
Coates, Ben, N.E.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Woolley, Ron, Cle.	1	2	2.0	2	0
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Quary, Jeff, Cin.	1	1	1.0	1	0
Tilman, Spencer, Hou.	1	1	1.0	1	0

PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1964)
Yards: 1,746, Charlie Hennigan, Houston (1961)
TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jeffries, Hayward, Hou.	90	913	10.1	47	9
Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	82	954	11.6	72	1
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	79	914	11.6	55	1
Williams, John L., Sea.	74	556	7.5	27	2
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	72	1060	14.7	167	7
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	67	787	11.7	41	10
Reed, Andre, Buf.	65	913	14.0	51	3
Janghorne, Reggie, Ind.	65	811	12.5	34	1
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	58	626	10.8	43	3
Burkett, Chris, Jets	57	724	12.7	137	1
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	57	641	11.2	69	1

AFC Statistics

Fryar, Irving, <i>N.E.</i>	55	791	14.4	154	4
Humphrey, Bobby, <i>Mia</i>	54	507	9.4	26	1
Sharpe, Shannon, <i>Den.</i>	53	640	12.1	55	2
Hester, Jessie, <i>Ind.</i>	52	792	15.2	81	1
Cook, Marv, <i>N.E.</i>	52	413	7.9	27	2
Lotton, James, <i>Bul.</i>	51	786	15.4	50	6
Moore, Rob, <i>Jets</i>	50	726	14.5	148	4
Graham, Jeff, <i>Pit.</i>	49	711	14.5	51	1
Brown, Tim, <i>Raiders</i>	49	693	14.1	168	7
Johnson, Anthony, <i>Ind.</i>	49	517	10.6	157	3
Jackson, Mark, <i>Den.</i>	48	745	15.5	151	8
Jackson, Keith, <i>Mia.</i>	48	594	12.4	42	5
Paige, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	48	399	8.3	30	1
Jackson, Michael, <i>Cle.</i>	47	755	16.1	169	7
Metcalfe, Eric, <i>Cle.</i>	47	614	13.1	169	5
Rivers, Reggie, <i>Den.</i>	45	449	10.0	37	1
Duper, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	44	762	17.3	162	7
Brooks, Bill, <i>Ind.</i>	44	468	10.6	26	1
McNair, Todd, <i>K.C.</i>	44	380	8.6	36	1
Clayton, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	43	619	14.4	144	3
Cash, Kerry, <i>Ind.</i>	43	521	12.1	41	3
Birden, J.J., <i>K.C.</i>	42	644	15.3	172	3
Green, Harold, <i>Cin.</i>	41	214	5.2	19	0
Slaughter, Webster, <i>Hou.</i>	39	486	12.5	136	4
Davis, Willie, <i>K.C.</i>	36	756	21.0	174	3
Foster, Barry, <i>Pit.</i>	36	344	9.6	42	0
Harris, Leonard, <i>Hou.</i>	35	435	12.4	47	2
McMurry, Greg, <i>N.E.</i>	35	424	12.1	165	1
McGee, Tim, <i>Cin.</i>	35	408	11.7	36	3
Lewis, Nate, <i>S.D.</i>	34	580	17.1	62	4
Stone, Dwight, <i>Pit.</i>	34	501	14.7	49	3
Walker, Derrick, <i>S.D.</i>	34	393	11.6	59	2
Beebe, Don, <i>Bul.</i>	33	554	16.8	165	2
Martin, Tony, <i>Mia.</i>	33	553	16.8	155	2
Horton, Ethan, <i>Raiders</i>	33	409	12.4	30	2
Toon, Al, <i>Jets</i>	31	311	10.0	32	2
Mills, Ernie, <i>Pit.</i>	30	383	12.8	22	3
Matzelaars, Pete, <i>Bul.</i>	30	298	9.9	153	6
Jefferson, Shawn, <i>S.D.</i>	29	377	13.0	51	2
Allen, Marcus, <i>Raiders</i>	28	277	9.9	40	1
Hoge, Merrill, <i>Pit.</i>	28	231	8.3	20	1
Smith, Steve, <i>Raiders</i>	28	217	7.8	19	1
Gaul, Willie, <i>Raiders</i>	27	508	18.8	53	4
Kane, Tommy, <i>Sea.</i>	27	369	13.7	31	3
Marshall, Arthur, <i>Den.</i>	26	493	19.0	180	1
Pickens, Carl, <i>Cin.</i>	26	326	12.5	38	1
Tompson, Michael, <i>N.E.</i>	26	315	12.1	25	1
Moore, Leroy, <i>Cle.</i>	26	310	11.9	146	1
Holman, Rodney, <i>Cin.</i>	26	266	10.2	126	2
Culver, Rodney, <i>Ind.</i>	26	210	8.1	27	2
Tirman, Lawyer, <i>Cle.</i>	25	498	19.9	52	0
Bavaro, Mark, <i>Cle.</i>	25	315	12.6	39	2
Barnett, Tim, <i>K.C.</i>	24	442	18.4	177	4
Johnson, Vance, <i>Den.</i>	24	294	12.3	40	2
Banks, Fred, <i>Mia.</i>	22	319	14.5	139	3
Mathis, Terance, <i>Jets</i>	22	316	14.4	155	3
Thompson, Leroy, <i>Pit.</i>	22	278	12.6	29	0
Jones, James, <i>Sea.</i>	21	190	9.0	30	0
Stephens, John, <i>N.E.</i>	21	161	7.7	32	0
Clark, Louis, <i>Sea.</i>	20	290	14.5	33	1
Coates, Ben, <i>N.E.</i>	20	171	8.6	122	3
Hochan, Pete, <i>Cle.</i>	20	170	8.5	24	0
Blades, Brian, <i>Sea.</i>	19	256	13.5	37	1
Rembert, Reggie, <i>Cin.</i>	19	219	11.5	27	0
Thompson, Craig, <i>Cin.</i>	19	194	10.2	32	2
Brennan, Brian, <i>Cin.-S.D.</i>	19	188	9.9	21	1
Boyer, Mark, <i>Jets</i>	19	149	7.8	23	0
Jones, Fred, <i>K.C.</i>	18	265	14.7	56	0
Hargain, Tony, <i>K.C.</i>	17	205	12.1	25	0
Query, Jeff, <i>Cin.</i>	16	265	16.6	183	3
Mitchell, Johnny, <i>Jets</i>	16	210	13.1	137	1
Cooper, Adrian, <i>Pit.</i>	16	197	12.3	27	3
McNair, Freeman, <i>Jets</i>	16	154	9.6	32	0
Higgs, Mark, <i>Mia.</i>	16	142	8.9	21	0
Warren, Chris, <i>Sea.</i>	16	134	8.4	33	0
Glover, Andrew, <i>Raiders</i>	15	178	11.9	30	1
Davis, Kenneth, <i>Bul.</i>	15	80	5.3	22	0
Green, Eric, <i>Pit.</i>	14	152	10.9	24	2
McKeller, Keith, <i>Bul.</i>	14	110	7.9	26	0
Dickerson, Eric, <i>Raiders</i>	14	85	6.1	15	1
Carpenter, Rob, <i>Jets</i>	13	161	12.4	51	1
Arbuckle, Charles, <i>Ind.</i>	13	152	11.7	123	1
Vardell, Tommy, <i>Cle.</i>	13	128	9.8	23	0

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Vaughn, Jon, N.E.	13	84	6.5	28	0
Mack, Kevin, Cle.	13	81	6.2	23	0
Ti Inan, Cedric, Den.	12	211	17.6	181	1
Wright, Alexander, Raiders	12	175	14.6	141	2
Russell, Derek, Den.	12	140	11.7	22	0
Cash Keith, K.C.	12	113	9.4	19	2
Bernstine, Rod, S.D.	12	86	7.2	16	0
Heier Ron, Sea.	12	85	7.1	17	0
Thomas, Robb, Sea.	11	136	12.4	31	0
Riggs, Jim, Cin.	11	70	6.4	17	0
Russell Leonard, N.E.	11	24	2.2	12	0
Graddy, Sam, Raiders	10	205	20.5	48	1
Johnson, Reggie, Den.	10	139	13.9	48	1
Edmunds, Ferrell, Mia.	10	91	9.1	15	1
Green, Gaston, Den.	10	79	7.9	33	0
Davenport, Charles, Pil.	9	136	15.1	31	0
Fernandez, Mervyn, Raiders	9	121	13.4	21	0
Word, Barry, K.C.	9	80	8.9	22	0
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	9	77	8.6	21	2
Butts, Marion, S.D.	9	73	8.1	22	0
Green, Paul, Sea.	9	67	7.4	15	1
Thomas, Doug, Sea.	8	5	10.6	19	0
Lamb Brad, Buf.	7	139	19.9	53	0
Gardner Carvel, Buf.	7	67	9.6	17	0
Chaffey, Pat, Jets	7	56	8.0	14	0
Kay Clarence, Den.	7	56	8.0	15	0
Turner Kevin, N.E.	7	52	7.4	119	2
Thomas, Blair, Jets	7	49	7.0	10	0
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	7	41	5.9	15	1
Ball, Eric, Cin.	6	66	11.0	135	2
Jordan, Tim, Pil.	6	28	4.7	8	2
Daniels, David, Sea.	5	99	19.8	57	0
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	5	65	13.0	28	0
Smith, Rico, Cle.	5	64	12.8	21	0
Biemmy, Eric, S.D.	5	49	9.8	25	0
Clark, Ken, Ind.	5	46	9.2	17	0
Saxon, James, Mia.	5	41	8.2	14	0
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	5	24	4.8	12	0
Galbraith, Scott, Cle.	4	64	15.8	28	1
Young, Duane, S.D.	4	45	11.3	14	0
Bel Nick, Raiders.	4	40	10.0	16	0
Awall, Robert, Buf.	4	34	8.5	10	0
Baxter Brad, Jets	4	32	8.0	12	0
Brown, A.B., Jets	4	30	7.5	20	0
Lewis, Greg, Den.	4	30	7.5	16	0
Stanley, Walter N.E.	3	63	21.0	36	0
Clark, Robert, Mia.	3	59	19.7	45	0
Williams, Mike, Mia.	3	43	14.3	18	0
Dido, Mark, Pil.	3	39	13.0	16	0
Verdin Clarence, Ind.	3	37	12.3	21	0
Siegall, M.H., Cin.	3	35	11.7	13	1
Col. rs, Shawn, Cle.	3	31	10.3	11	0
Junkin, Trey, Sea.	3	25	8.3	13	1
Baty, Greg, Mia.	3	19	6.3	12	1
Jones, Mike, Sea.	3	18	6.0	7	0
Jones, Victor, Den.	3	17	5.7	16	0
Carthon, Maurice, Ind.	3	10	3.3	6	0

INTERCEPTION

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)
Yards: 349, Charlie McNeil, San Diego (1961)
Longest return: 103 yards,

Venice Glenn, San Diego (1987)
Louis Oliver, Miami (1992)

TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

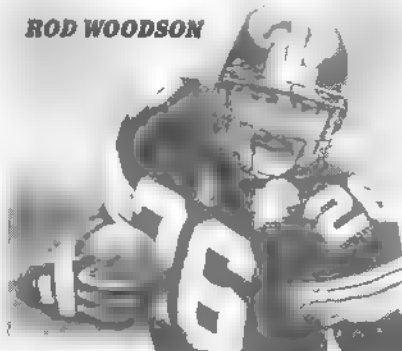
4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

2 or more

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Jones, Henry, Buf.	8	263	32.9	182	2
Robinson Eugene, Sea.	7	126	18.0	49	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	7	65	9.3	136	1
Kelso Mark, Buf.	7	21	3.0	13	0
Carrington, Darren, S.D.	6	152	25.3	89	1
Br m, Michael, Jets	6	139	23.2	177	1
Perry Darren, Pil.	6	69	11.5	34	0
Washington, Brian, Jets	6	59	9.8	123	1
Prior, Mike, Ind.	6	44	7.3	19	0
Gray Jerry, Hou.	6	24	4.0	22	0
Oliver Louis, Mia.	5	200	40.0	1103	1
Johnson David, Pil.	5	67	13.4	35	0
Odomes, Nate, Buf.	5	19	3.8	10	0
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders.	4	180	45.0	67	0
McNoy, Charles, K.C.	4	128	32.0	39	2

Brown, J.B. Mia.	4	119	29.8	48	1
Woodson Rod, Pil.	4	90	22.5	57	0
Byrd, Gil, S.D.	4	88	22.0	44	0
Henderson, Wyman, Den.	4	79	19.8	146	1
Williams, Darryl, Cin.	4	65	16.3	30	0
Frank, Donald, S.D.	4	37	9.3	33	0
Thompson, Benn, K.C.	4	26	6.5	25	0
Smith, Dennis, Den.	4	10	2.5	8	0
Anderson, Eddie, Raiders	3	131	43.7	1102	1
Franc's James, Cin.	3	108	36.0	166	1
Griffin Larry, Pil.	3	98	32.7	165	1
Harper, Dwayne, Sea.	3	74	24.7	41	0
Jackson, Vestee, Mia.	3	63	21.0	130	1
Newsome, Vince, Cle.	3	55	18.3	29	0
McDowd, Bubba, Hou.	3	52	17.3	126	1
Henderson, Jerome, N.E.	3	43	14.3	34	0
Dishman, Chris, Hou.	3	34	11.3	17	0
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	3	29	9.7	27	0
Belser Jason, Ind.	3	27	9.0	21	0
Richard Stanley, S.D.	3	26	8.7	20	0
Walls, Eversen, Giants-Cle.	3	26	8.7	24	0
Jackson, Steve, Hou.	3	18	6.0	18	0

ROD WOODSON



Simien, Tracy, K.C.	3	18	6.0	10	0
Fulcher, David, Cin.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Brandon, David, Cle.	2	123	61.5	152	1
Goode, Chris, Ind.	2	93	46.5	47	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Den.	2	54	27.0	40	0
Pool, David, N.E.	2	54	27.0	141	1
Seau, Junior, S.D.	2	51	25.5	29	0
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	2	47	23.5	32	0
Plummer Gary, S.D.	2	40	20.0	38	0
Davis, Brian, Sea.	2	36	18.0	36	0
Williams, Jarvis, Mia.	2	29	14.5	25	0
Robbins, Randy, N.E.	2	27	13.5	20	0
Stargell, Tony, Ind.	2	26	13.0	15	0
Atwater Steve, Den.	2	22	11.0	22	0
Washington, Lionel, Raiders	2	21	10.5	18	0
Hasty James, Jets	2	18	9.0	18	0
Turner Marcus, Jets	2	15	7.5	14	0
Williams James, Buf.	2	15	7.5	15	0
Jones, Rod, Cin.	2	14	7.0	14	0
Little, David, Pil.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Munn field, Frank, Cle.	2	6	3.0	5	0
Cain, Joseph, Sea.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Braylock Anthony, S.D.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Hunter, Patrick, Sea.	2	0	0.0	0	0

RECORDS

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)
Yards: 682, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)
Longest for TD: 98 yards,

Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Woodson Rod, Pil.	32	13	354	11.4	180	1
Verdin Clarence, Ind.	24	12	268	11.2	184	2
Marshall Arthur, Den.	23	16	349	10.6	47	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	38	6	398	10.5	186	2
Brown Tim, Raiders.	37	19	383	10.4	40	0
Hicks, Cliff, Buf.	29	6	289	10.0	42	0
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	44	10	429	9.8	175	1
Stanley, Walter N.E.	28	17	227	8.1	50	0
Biemmy Eric, S.D.	30	3	229	7.6	21	0
Carpenter, Rob, Jets	28	9	208	7.4	21	0
Warren, Chris, Sea.	34	25	252	7.4	16	0

Mathis, Scott, Mia.	24	18	175	7.3	19	0
Staugher Webster, Hou.	20	8	142	7.1	20	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Pickens, Carl, Cin.	18	9	229	12.7	195	1
Hale, Chris, Buf.	14	2	175	12.5	27	0
Lewis Nate, S.D.	13	5	127	9.8	25	0
Timpson Michael, N.E.	8	2	47	5.9	14	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	7	4	35	5.0	19	0
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	6	2	56	9.3	25	0
Harris, Corey, Hou.	6	0	17	2.8	13	0
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	5	0	16	3.2	6	0
Treggs, Brian, Sea.	4	2	31	7.8	13	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Rai.	4	1	19	4.8	13	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	2	0	24	12.0	12	0

NICHOLSON RETURN

NUMBERS

Numbers: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978, 1979)
55, David Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

Yards: 1,317, Bobby Jancik, Houston (1963)

Longest: 106 yards,

Nolan Smith, Kansas City (1967)

TDs: 3, Ray Clayborn, New England (1977)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Vaughn, Jon, N.E.	20	564	28.2	1100	1
Badwin Randy, Cle.	30	675	22.5	47	0
Montgomery A, Ion, Den.	21	466	22.2	64	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	39	815	20.9	42	0
Se, Eric, Cin.	20	411	20.6	48	0
Williams Harvey, K.C.	21	405	19.3	37	0
McMillan Erik, Jets	22	420	19.1	45	0
Woodson, Rod, Pil.	25	469	18.8	32	0
Warren, Chris, Sea.	28	524	18.7	34	0
Stanley, Walter N.E.	29	529	18.2	40	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	28	492	17.6	32	0
Siegall, M.H., Cin.	25	430	17.2	39	0
Wright, Alexander Dal-Rai.	26	442	17.0	33	0

NON-QUALIFIERS (2 or more)

Lewis, Nate, S.D.	19	402	21.2	62	0
Williams M, Ke, Mia.	19	328	17.3	28	0
Mayes, Rueben, Sea.	19	311	16.4	29	0
Biemmy, Eric, S.D.	15	257	17.1	30	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	14	290	20.7	28	0
Parmaee Bern e Mia.	14	289	20.6	32	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	14	274	19.6	41	0
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	14	251	17.9	35	0
Edwards, Al, Buf.	12	274	22.8	34	0
Stone, Dwight, Pil.	12	219	18.3	28	0
Lockwood, Scott, N.E.	11	233	21.2	36	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	11	190	17.3	39	0
Tilman, Spencer, Hou.	10	157	15.7	33	0
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	9	157	17.4	30	0
Craver, Aaron, Mia.	8	174	21.6	44	0
Lewis, Darryl, Hou.	8	171	21.4	26	0
Fulmer Eddie, Buf.	8	134	16.8	28	0
Marshall, Arthur, Den.	8	132	16.5	21	0
Miles, Ostel, Cin.	8	128	16.0	27	0
Ambrose, Ashley, Ind.	8	126	15.8	26	0
Russell Derek, Den.	7	154	22.0	33	0
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	7	96	13.7	30	0
Lamb Brad, Buf.	5	97	19.4	31	0
Graddy Sam, Raiders.	5	85	17.0	21	0
Green, Gaston, Den.	5	76	15.2	20	0
Robinson Frank, Cin-Den.	4	89	22.3	26	0
Clark Ken, Ind.	3	54	18.0	20	0
Jones, Fred, K.C.	3	51	17.0	23	0
Thompson, Leroy, Pil.	2	51	25.5	33	0
Johnson Reggie, Den.	2	47	23.5	34	0
Thigpen, Yancey, Pil.	2	44	22.0	29	0
Fenner Derrick, Cin.	12	38	19.0	18	0
Hoard Leroy, Cle.	2	34	17.0	25	0
Smith, Sammie, Den.	2	31	15.5	21	0
Paige, Tony, Mia.	2	29	14.5	19	0
Hoge, Merril, Pil.	2	28	14.0	17	0
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	2	28	14.0	28	0
Land, Dan, Raiders	2	27	13.5	14	0
McNair Todd, K.C.	2	20	10.0	14	0
Price, Mitchell, Cin.	2	20	10.0	13	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	2	14	7.0	14	0
Handrickson, Steve, S.D.	2	14	7.0	8	0
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